



Optimism on Belfast car jobs

Five-week fight for survival at De Lorean

From David Hewson and Hugh Noyes in London and Nicholas Timmins in Belfast

£1,750m offered for Amersham

Almost £1,750m has been offered for the Government's issue of shares in Amersham International, making it 24.6 times oversubscribed.

Employees have taken 1.3 million shares. The degree of oversubscription has raised strong criticism of the Government's decision to put the shares on offer at £71m instead of out to tender.

'No compromise' on The Times

Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers, said last night that there could be no compromise over the management's demands for more than 600 redundancies at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. He would close the newspapers on Monday unless agreement was reached with the trade unions. Negotiations between the management and unions are expected to continue through the weekend.

Page 2

Spanish coup trial clash

Two Spanish generals accused of leading last year's attempted coup contradicted each other when their trial opened before a military tribunal. One said he was acting on the other's orders, the other denied involvement.

Page 4

Bomb injures former soldier

A former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment lost both legs and was "very seriously ill" in Craigavon Hospital last night after his booby-trapped car exploded in the grounds of St Luke's Psychiatric Hospital, Armagh. The man, aged 59, and married, left the regiment two months ago.

Students told to borrow

Sir Keith Joseph, the Education Secretary, advised students who tackled him at Carlisle to borrow money from their parents or a bank or take part-time jobs to help complete their education.

Poles pay up

Poland has now paid nearly all the interest and capital on its loans overdue from 1981, the main stumbling block to rescheduling \$2,400m of further borrowings.

Page 15

Bathgate vote

BL workers at the Scottish truck plant followed their Lancashire workmates in calling off the four-week strike over redundancies. One of the Bathgate stewards accused the company of frightening the men back to work by the closure threat.

Page 2

Irish hopes

Ireland attempt to win rugby union's Triple Crown for the first time in 33 years at Lansdowne Road, against Scotland, today. In Paris, England meet France.

Page 19

Gone Fishing

"The missing fishing rods, not the election campaign, seemed to be the more serious loss to all of us as we discussed important matters by the tumbling waters of the Pennsylvania Creek."

Jimmy Carter's fly-fishing diary, page 6

Leader page 7

Letter to the Israeli Ambassador; ancient monuments, from Professor Martin Biddle and others. Leading articles: Atlantic alliance; De Lorean; Breaking into jail.

Features, page 6

The nuclear threat to Hardy country; Gert von Patrensky eats out in Scotland and finds 2 grouse or two; Obituary, page 8; Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Cazalet; Mr Stanley Crowe.

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Optimism on Belfast car jobs

Five-week fight for survival at De Lorean

From David Hewson and Hugh Noyes in London and Nicholas Timmins in Belfast

Mr John De Lorean's career as a United Kingdom sports car manufacturer ended yesterday with the receivership of his Belfast-based firm.

The state, which had already provided £80m of aid to the three-year-old company, could not be found and had no immediate plans to lay off any of the 1,500 workforce. Mr De Lorean left for New York shortly before Mr Prior announced the failure and spoke of "very considerable" management and marketing mistakes made over the sales estimates for the car.

A statement from Mr De Lorean said the firm had made nearly US \$6m profit in the three months to the end of last August, and an operating profit of about US \$4m in the last quarter of last year.

The statement compared the crash to the restructuring of Rolls-Royce, and said that the firm's sports car had achieved United States sales figures in six months which it had taken competitors up to 17 years to achieve.

Mr De Lorean said in New York last night: "My conscience is very, very clear." He felt no personal sense of loss. "What you have to say in life is that, if you have given it your best shot, you have accomplished all you can. We have made an important contribution where the world really needed it."

The crisis produced an unexpected measure of accord in the Commons when Mr Prior announced his decision. With much of the support for the firm's continued existence coming from Midland MPs, it demonstrated that its total collapse, which could affect thousands of jobs in mainland supply companies, was a matter of national concern.

Mr De Lorean had been hoping for a last-minute cash injection from the West Coast of America, but when that help did not materialise, he had no alternative but to appoint Sir Kenneth Cork and Mr Paul Shewell as receivers.

Mr Prior said it would be entirely wrong for him to indicate that further Government

money would be forthcoming. However, both he and the receivers hoped that a restructuring of the business might be possible, so he had agreed to the withdrawal of certain guarantees from the American parent company to the Belfast manufacturing company. Mr Prior believed that this would enable the companies to continue to trade.

Mr Prior felt it was far too ambitious to call in terms of 18,000 to 20,000 car sales a year, as De Lorean originally had. A figure of 8,500 to 9,000 was more realistic. Mr Prior said he could give no assurances to creditors. They would have to take their risks.

Sir Kenneth Cork, one of the receivers appointed to the company, had intended to continue short-time working, producing about 140 cars a week "for the time being". He believed there was a market for the cars and said there was considerable interest from financiers who had returned to the United States. He felt there was a good chance that money would be forthcoming, and said Mr De Lorean could regain control if he could raise the money.

He denied that the Government would write off £70m.

The receivership may still lead to job losses in the company's 200-plus suppliers, some of whom are owed tens of thousands of pounds by the old company. Up to 1,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and several times that number in mainland suppliers such as British Steel, GKN, Lucas, and International Paints depend on De Lorean.

Union reaction to the move was mixed. Mr George Clarke of the Transport and General Workers' Union, which has 500 members at the plant, said he was disappointed and angry that the Government had not offered any new money.

Mr De Lorean had created a new factory and car from nothing, providing 7,000 jobs in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

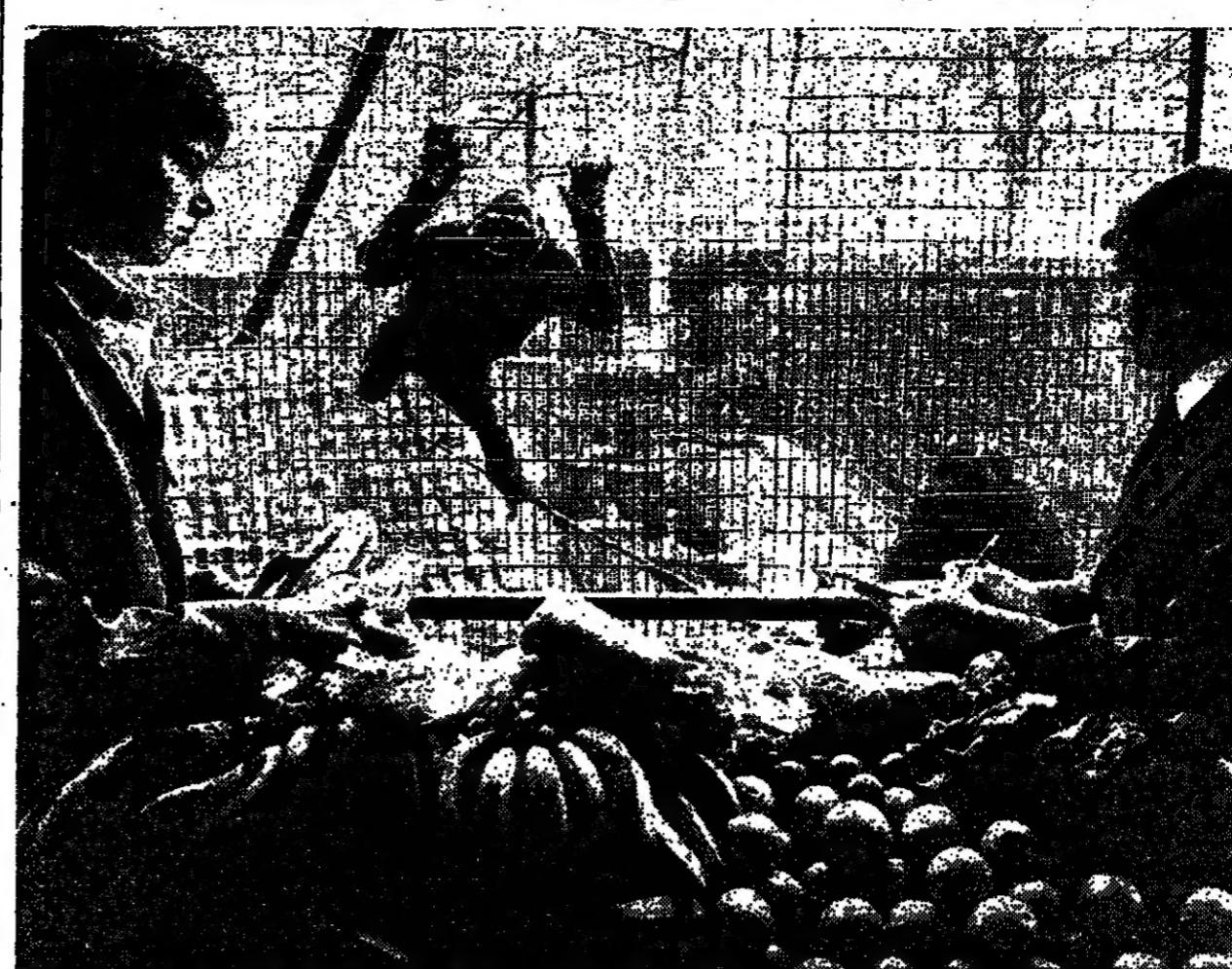
But Mr John Freeman, the union's Northern Ireland secretary, said: "The decision has to be made, as it is the only way forward. We believe Sir Kenneth Cork can do with De Lorean what he has done with other companies and that is to make them successful."

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leading article, page 7

more than £60-worth of food each week; a polar bear's menu averages £25. Food costs account for 10 per cent of annual expenditure at the

Kumba the gorilla: eating into London Zoo's £1m



Child has no right to sue for its birth

By Annabel Ferriman

A child cannot sue a doctor for allowing it to be born, the Court of Appeal ruled yesterday.

Mary McKay, aged six, who was born partly blind and deaf after being infected with rubella (German measles) while in the womb, was suing Essex Area Health Authority and Dr Gower Davies, of Basildon, Essex, for not advising her mother to have an abortion.

Her mother, Mrs Jacinta McKay, from Woodford, Essex, suspected when pregnant that she had been exposed to rubella and asked for blood tests. It is alleged that both Dr Davies, her doctor, and the health authority failed to carry out the correct tests and told her it was in order to maintain the pregnancy.

Mrs McKay is suing Dr Davies for allegedly not treating the rubella when she had it, which would have limited the damage, and allegedly failing to inform her she had rubella, after she had provided two blood samples.

Mrs McKay, who says she would have had an abortion had she been told, is also suing the health authority for allegedly not carrying out the correct tests. Those claims were not heard yesterday.

The case being considered was an additional claim being brought by Mary McKay through her uncle, Mr Michael William Davis, that the duty Dr Davies owed her when she was in the womb involved advising her mother of the desirability of an abortion, which advice her mother would have accepted.

In a case "unique to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth" she claims she has suffered damage by entry into a life in which her injuries are highly debilitating.

She is bringing the Foreign Secretary's handling of arrangements for the Sinai peace-keeping force.

The extract keeps the style of the notes as written, abbreviated without the definite and indefinite articles and often missing out other connecting words. They are at their most revealing on Mr Haig's views about the Middle East. When Israel hands back the final part of Sinai to Egypt in April under the Camp David peace process, the links between the two countries could fail fast, he believes.

At a meeting on January 18, Mr Haig says that when Sinai is handed back "Egypt will go back to the Arab world with the (US) isolated as Israel's sole defender".

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Mr Haig at a press conference later made light of the Washington Post report. He said and laughed: "It couldn't have been me speaking. It was too clear."

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Lord Justice Stephen, sitting with Lord Justice Ackner and Lord Justice Griffiths, allowed the appeal, saying that a child could not sue for having been born. She could have been legally aborted, but there was no obligation or duty on the doctor to abort.

If a child could sue a health authority or a doctor for allowing it to be born handicapped, it would imply that it has a right to be born whole, or not to be born unless it can be born perfect or "normal". Whatever that may mean."

The defendants were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords but said they would consider asking the Lords for permission.

Law report, page 21

Haughey scents victory in close poll

From Richard Ford
Dublin

more than £60-worth of food each week; a polar bear's menu averages £25. Food costs account for 10 per cent of annual expenditure at the

How Haig voiced his opinion of Carrington in army language

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 19

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, in a private meeting with his staff called Lord Carrington a "duplicious bastard" over the Foreign Secretary's handling of arrangements for the Sinai peace-keeping force.

The comment is contained in a series of notes of staff meetings published in the Washington Post today which show Mr Haig to be far gloomier about the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations than his public statements have suggested.

Notes by an unidentified participant at Mr Haig's meetings and checked with two others show the notes are likely to cause intense embarrassment in both political and diplomatic circles. They show a forceful, candid and sometimes crude Secretary of State.

The comments on Lord Carrington were made on October 15 during a discussion on the Sinai force, which the Americans were trying to persuade their allies to join.

The British, apparently, were claiming that they were under Saudi Arabian pressure to stay out of the multinational force. Mr Haig did not believe it, and made the "duplicious bastard" remark.

The notes have Mr Haig saying: "European friends just plain cowards. British said, 'I'd go to paranoiac in

lying through their teeth on MFO (Multinational force and observers). Saudis never presented 'British and Europeans

as grave'. He predicted: 'Dramatic change (is) imminent and internal suppression is coming.' The imposition of martial law came nine months later and seemed then to catch the Reagan Administration unawares.

At a meeting on January 18, Mr Haig says that when Sinai is handed back "Egypt will go back to the Arab world with the (US) isolated as Israel's sole defender".

According to the notes Egypt had changed its direction under President Hosni Mubarak.

Mr Haig told me that a post-Sadat Egypt was going to be very different", Mr Haig said on January 18, discussing his recent trip to the Middle East.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Cut of £2m in police budget

West Midland police are to lose £2.2m from their budget of £115m, the controlling Labour group of the West Midlands Metropolitan County Council decided last night (Peter Evans writes). The cut is proportionately less than the reduction to be made in other services.

Mr Edwin Shore, chairman of the West Midlands Police Authority, last night blamed "the ridiculous financial restrictions" placed in the West Midlands by Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The reduction is despite a last-minute attempt by Mr Heseltine to make more money available to provincial police forces.

The Department of the Environment has said that £13m cut from the estimated budget of the Metropolitan Police in London will be made available to provincial forces, but Mr Shore said last night that the share available for West Midlands would be "crumbs".

Girl cadet dies in river accident

A schoolgirl Army cadet died last night and a boy was critically ill in Medway Hospital, Gillingham, after an accident on the River Medway, in Kent, when an amphibious combat craft overturned 200 yards off Upnor, near Rochester, with 12 cadets, boys and girls, on board.

The dead girl was last night named as Nicola Fan, aged 15, of Blendon Road, Bexley, Kent. The boy was Deepch Patel, aged 14, of Heron Hill, south London. All 12 cadets came from Aleyne's School in Dulwich, south London.

A Van Dyck for death duty

The Government has accepted "The Betrayal of Van Dyck", at a net cost of £702,635 in part payment of death duties from the estate of Lord Methuen, who died in 1975.

The large-scale religious work, painted early in Van Dyck's career, is estimated to be worth about £1.75m and was offered to the Government on condition that it was retained at Caversham Court, near Bath, which houses one of the country's most distinguished private art collections.

Eight held after animal protest

Protesters opposed to a new drug laboratory chained themselves to railings outside Cambridge University Senate House yesterday. Police used batons to free them and said later that eight people were being questioned.

Parke-Davis, the American pharmaceutical company, said the £1.8m laboratory to be built on University land in the next two years would use animals for experiments to find cures for crippling illnesses.

Battered baby man cleared

Mr Richard Davis, aged 34, the social worker at the centre of a storm over the death of a battered baby, Jason Caesar, aged 19 months, has been cleared by Cambridgeshire social services committee.

The committee spent more than 20 hours in secret session studying the case.

Schools plan rejected

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, has rejected plans by the Conservative-controlled London borough of Croydon to replace its 19 secondary schools with eight schools for pupils aged 11 to 16 and a new tertiary college

Hattersley plans elected London police authority

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The next Labour government would set up a new, elected London police authority with the same powers as those now exercised by provincial authorities, Mr Roy Hattersley, the shadow Home Secretary, said last night.

That would end the traditional role of the Home Secretary as police authority for the capital, which he called "a fiction".

In an important statement of Labour's attitude to the police, Mr Hattersley gave no details of any proposals for the composition of the authority, but he remarked: "I am absolutely certain that, had the Metropolitan Police been influenced over the last 10 years by elected representatives from all or any of the parties, many of the mistakes would have been avoided and the reputation of the Metropolitan Police would stand far higher than it stands today. It would have been closer to the people".

Mr Hattersley, speaking in south Gloucestershire, set out new proposals to make the police accountable to the public and committed Labour to setting up a national police service, under the control of the Lord Chancellor, and to reforming the police complaints procedure.

The relationship between police and people had deteriorated significantly in the last decade, Mr Hattersley said. The Labour Party had a strong vested interest in creating and maintaining a peaceful society.

"In a very real sense we must become the law and order party", he said.

Although he did not want constant interference in the day-to-day operation of the police, there should be new policy authorities responsible for police policy. They would be composed solely of elected representatives of the area who took decisions on the nature of policing in their districts. In the police station is on foot or in a car, which is the force is organised, for a quick response to isolated incidents or the constant involvement in the life of the

community, and where the greatest efforts of the police force should be concentrated".

Mr Hattersley said that at present there was constant argument about what powers police committees possessed. Chief police officers would say that they were responsible to the law of the land, but for most decisions they were answerable to no one.

There should be a new Police Act which would describe where powers lay and give real powers to the police committee: "Men who enjoy the power and authority of controlling police forces ought to have their rights and responsibilities clearly set out in statute", Mr Hattersley said.

He added that last summer, after Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, had announced that he was making supplies of CS gas and rubber bullets and armoured vehicles available to forces who wanted them, he suggested to take a decision on whether individual forces should be allowed the offer.

"That decision concerns the nature of policing in the area, the whole relationship between the law and public and the future character of the area itself. It seems to me intolerable that such a fundamental decision should be taken by one man who is in reality answerable to no one".

Mr Hattersley said that to reassure the public it was essential that independent investigation should play at least some part in the examination of any complaint against the police. The important objective was increased confidence in the police.

□ The Metropolitan Police yesterday unsuccessfully sought leave to challenge a High Court ruling earlier this week that they were acting illegally in continuing to bring prosecutions under the now defunct "sus" law, or section four of the Vagrancy Act, 1824 (Francis Gibb writes).

The ruling in the High Court affects more than a hundred potential prosecutions throughout London.

Rust-proof dream car caught in recession

Rocky road that led De Lorean to the precipice

From Nicholas Timmins
Belfast

The rise and fall of the De Lorean Motor Company has been as spectacular as that of the gullwing doors on the company's 120 mph stainless steel sports car. In three and a half years the company has gone from a greenfield site in Dunmurry, south Belfast, to production that briefly ran at the rate of 18,000 cars a year, to the present crisis and the hope of small-scale continuing production.

It was August, 1978, when a jubilant Mr Roy Mason, then Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, announced a £25m package of government investment and aid that took De Lorean to the 56-acre Dunmurry site rather than to Puerto Rico, the Irish Republic or one of several other European countries.

Mr John De Lorean, founder of the company, said the plant would go "from cow pasture to production within 18 months" with 20,000 cars in the first full year and 30,000 in the second. The aim was to sell the two-car set at \$14,000.

Orders for 30,000 cars were said to be in the pipeline, thanks to a network of United States dealers who had to buy \$25,000 of De Lorean stock and showed interest in the car's success. There was talk of later selling the cars in Europe and the Middle East.

If critics saw the project to sell an untried upmarket car as a business operating on a gullwing and a prayer, in Northern Ireland it was seen as providing a crucial 2,000 jobs near the depressed Roman Catholic areas of west Belfast, where unemployment was more than 35 per cent and higher still among the young.

Le Lorean hit some of its ambitious targets ahead of schedule. But in other respects things rapidly went wrong. Although the first car was to sell the two-car set at \$14,000.

Le Lorean received loans, grants and guarantees from the Government totalling £80m.

The Northern Ireland Department says De Lorean has to date paid £878,000 interest

on the loans, together with £500,000 in royalty payments, due at the rate of £185 a car.

Mr De Lorean has said that the Dunmurry plant has been fire-bombed 140 times. Police records do not seem to substantiate that.

The company has complained that while emphasis is always placed on the site of government investment, the fact that about £71m has been returned to Northern Ireland in wages and plants by the company is ignored.

By August, 1981, employment at the plant had topped 2,000.

Production late last year rose to a peak of 400 cars a week and the plant was providing 2,500 jobs. But the car hit an American market that failed to make its predicted recovery.

Overall car sales of 10 million in a good year slumped to 8.5 million last year, with sales ploughing in November and December.

Mr De Lorean's words:

"The industry went into the ashcan". De Lorean sales went with it. By the end of last year, 7,681 cars had been manufactured, but only 4,754 had been sold to dealers by January 15 last. In spite of heavy discounts the company's future is uncertain.

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Science report
Sunspots
throw up
climatic
mystery

Brittan stands firm on pleas for reflation

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's unwavering opposition to reflation, which she described as dishonest money in a television interview on Thursday, was echoed last night by Mr Leon Brittan, Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

With the Budget less than three weeks away, the Treasury appears to be taking every opportunity to prepare the country for a far less significant boost to the economy than many Conservative MPs and former ministers want.

Mr Brittan was clearly reinforcing the Prime Minister's outspoken rejection of reflation when he said that those who called for the creation of jobs through the public spending and borrowing ignored what happened to Britain in the past and what other governments were doing now.

"Those who urge us to abandon the fight against inflation and spend and borrow our way to full employment are practising a cruel trick on the British people in general and the unemployed in particular," he said in his Cleveland and Whitchurch constituency.

The escalating levels of inflation in the past, and the failure to reduce them were

skills, our ingenuity and our soft options.

In a speech in Hull, Mr Pym called for a sense of crusade to be adopted in the quest for new industries, markets and products as some of Britain's traditional industries declined.

"We must use our native

jobs to take low-paid

among the main causes of the present levels of unemployment. No policy which envisages easing up in the fight against inflation would create jobs that would last, but would destroy them.

Mr Brittan said that responsible governments had rejected policies which jeopardized success in the slow battle against inflation.

He recognises that a lasting reduction in unemployment could only be achieved when inflation has been brought down and it is believed that it will stay down.

Mr Francis Pym, Leader of the Commons and Lord President of the Council, who incurred the Prime Minister's displeasure two weeks ago for what she regarded as a too pessimistic contribution to the economic debate, last night paid tribute to Mrs Thatcher's honesty and courage for putting long-term sustainable recovery above short-term popularity and soft options.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

EEC exports dispute

Strasbourg fury at vote delay on Soviet sales

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Feb 19

Amid protests and repeated points of order, the European Parliament was today "counted out" when it was about to vote on a controversial resolution which accused the EEC Commission of failing to restrict food exports to Russia during 1980 as part of Western resolutions against the invasion of Afghanistan.

The Conservative group accused the Socialists of deliberately staying away so that there was not the required 145 members for a quorum.

The debate turned on a dispute between the figures of exports prepared by the Commission and those produced by the budgetary control committee of the Parliament, figures accepted as valid by the Conservatives.

Herr Heinrich Aigner, West German chairman of the committee, said that when Olympic athletes and others were making personal sacrifices to demonstrate their opposition to the invasion of Afghanistan, the EEC Commission was similarly failing to support the actions of the free world. "It was either incompetence or knavery, or a combination of the two", he said; and the budgetary control committee would carry on its investigations.

Those of wheat increased from 5,000 tons in 1979 to 500,000 tons in 1980, beef and veal went up from 22,000 tons to 97,000 tons, and sugar from 225,000 tons to 833,000. The figures were official Commission statistics, he said. It was clear that the Commission had been unable to control prices or amounts. It was like a football that had been kicked around by trade and market forces.

Everyone knew that a Frenchman who ran an export firm had a virtual monopoly of trade between the Community and Russia, Herr Aigner said. When asked how he had managed to become a multi-millionaire so quickly, the Frenchman said: "Through the stupidity of my trading partners."

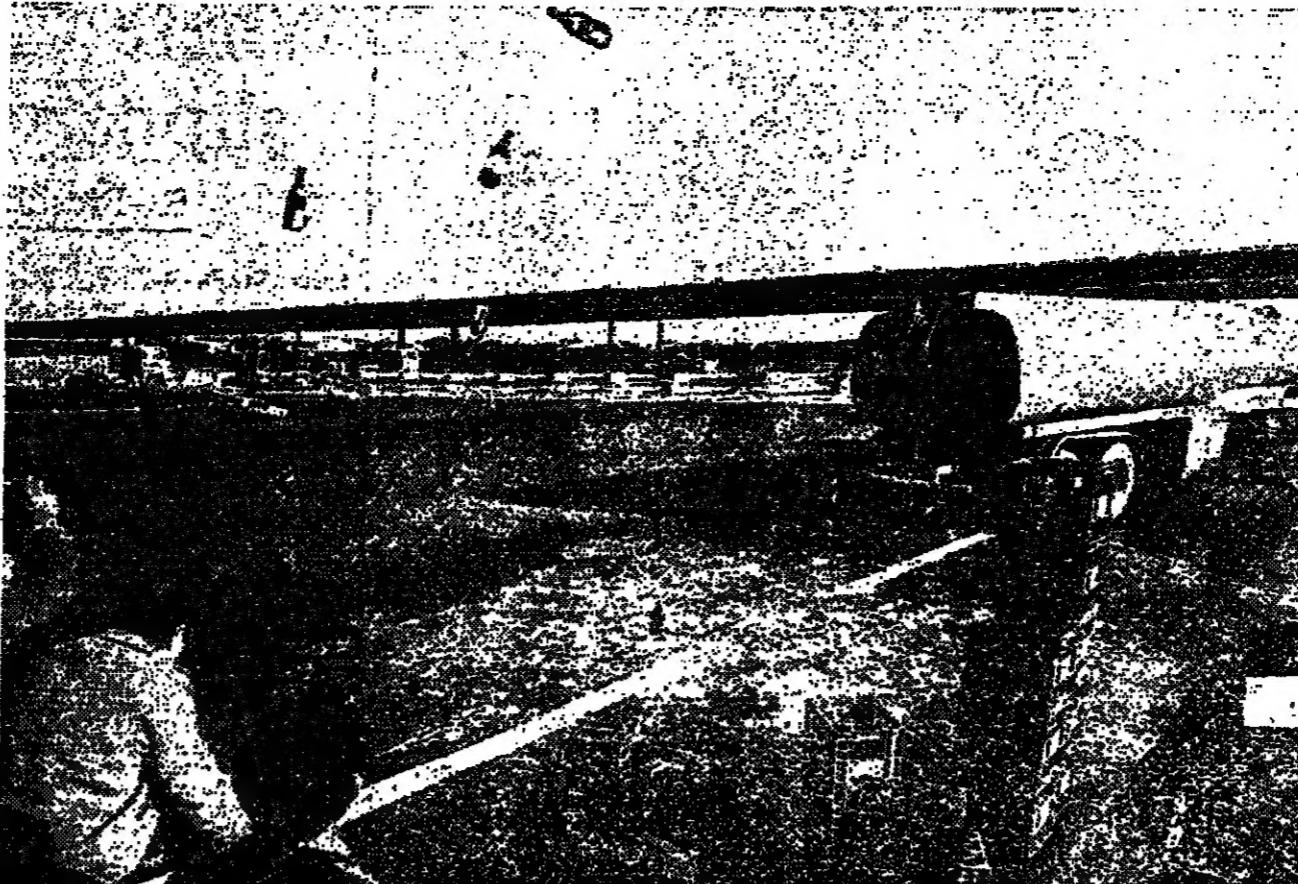
Herr Aigner said that the director-general of the agricultural division of the Commission was in fact the main trading partner of this company. "We know that on one single deal of 25,000 tons of wheat there was a straight profit of 30 million units of account (about £15m), and that gives you some idea of

the speculative profits that could be made", he said.

Mr Brian Hord, Conservative MEP for London, West, complained about the pathetic performance of the Commission and the impossibility of defending its actions to electors. He said Mr Roy Jenkins, the former president of the Commission, would have had difficulty in explaining why British taxpayers' money should be used to provide cheap food for Russians.

Herr Ulrich Irmer, for the Liberals, said that the huge subsidy provided by European taxpayers was actually being used through these trade deals to finance the Communist Party in France.

Mr Alan Tyrell, Conservative MEP for London, East, said that when Olympic



One for the road: Angry French wine producers smash bottles of cheap imported wine after seizing three Italian lorries at Saint Jean de Vedas yesterday

'Coup plot' foiled in Nigeria

Lagos, Feb 19.—Nigerian newspapers reported today that a coup plot had been foiled, and a government statement said a civilian and some soldiers had been charged with inciting troops to mutiny.

A statement issued by the office of the President said a Nigerian businessman, an army officer and number of soldiers had been arrested and charged with "conspiring to commit a felony by the incitement of soldiers to commit a mutinous act".

The National Concord, which is close to the ruling National Party, under the headline "coup bid", said the businessman had handed out large sums of money to a major and several soldiers to overthrow the civilian government.

For butter exports, the average had been 70,000 tons over three years, and the actual figure in 1979 was 135,000 tons. But exports in 1980 were 100,000 tons.

The vote on the budgetary committee's motion is now put off to the March session when the debate can be resumed.

Deng pessimistic on US relations

Peking, Feb 19.—Mr Deng Xiaoping, Vice Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, said that Sino-American relations are not good, and that the United States was mistaken if it thought that China need not, according to Chinese sources.

The 77-year-old leader made the comments during an hour-long meeting with an American engineering professor, K. S. Mu, vice-president of Ebasco Services International.

This was Mr Deng's second public appearance and his first with an American, since Thursday, when he ended a five-week holiday and inspection tour.

Mr Deng, who is known for a dry sense of humour, laughed off rumours that circulated during his absence from public view. He said he enjoyed speculation that his enemies wanted to shoot him, and added that he had been hit, figuratively speaking, by a few bullets over the years, but had survived. Mr Deng has been purged and rehabilitated three times.

Speaking of Chinese politics, Mr Deng confirmed that he has withdrawn from the

PORTUGAL FACES MORE STOPPAGES

Lisbon, Feb 19.—Portugal's main trade union grouping met today to work out a strike after the pro-Soviet Communist Party unveiled plans to step up labour unrest in order to bring down the Government.

The meeting of the grouping, most of whose leaders are Communist, was the first since a general strike last Friday. The Government claimed that the stoppage was linked with an alleged plot against democracy.

Lisbon public transport was disrupted today by a 24-hour strike by river ferries and the underground system. The government laid on fleets of private coaches.

Senhor Alvaro Cunhal, the Portuguese Communist Party leader, told a party rally last night that strikes were necessary and insisted it was vital to bring down the Government of Senhor Francisco Pinto Balsemão before a forthcoming revision of the constitution.

Senhor Cunhal said his party would demand a parliamentary debate on what he described as Government claims that the general strike was part of a coup attempt.

Mr Deng, who also is the driving force behind China's modernization programme, said that by the year 2000 he hoped that every Chinese would have an annual income of about £400.

He said his main goal now was to reorganize the central bureaucracy, and that he hoped it could be accomplished during the first half of 1982. —AP

Clean living gets credit for drop in coronaries

From Piers Ackerman
New York, Feb 19

Coronary heart disease has declined steeply in the United States, Canada, Australia and Finland over the past two decades, but not in the United Kingdom, possibly because of relatively poor health education, an American can professor claims.

Dr William Kannel, professor and chairman of the department of preventive medicine and epidemiology at the Boston University Medical Centre, believes that the decline may be due to preventive measures or changes in habits.

He says in an article in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* that it is encouraging to believe that a combination of changes in diet, smoking, treatment of hypertension, and increased physical activity has contributed to the decline in the United States.

In England and Wales, where there has been much scepticism, scientific doubt and apathy about preventive efforts involving diet and vigorous control of hypertension, mortality figures had remained depressingly constant.

"Among middle-aged men in 1968, the chances of a CHD (coronary heart disease) death in an American was 40 per cent higher than that of an Englishman, while by 1976 the American risk had actually declined to below that of the English," Dr Kannel writes. "It is of interest that the only segments of the English population that have improved their mortality are the higher social classes and physicians."

Dr Kannel emphasizes that the causes of the decline in the United States and some other high mortality areas remains speculative but that it is reassuring to consider that small changes in behaviour might have produced the large change.

□ Britain lagging: Most British doctors accept that health education has been less successful than in America and that they have failed to persuade the public of the need to stop smoking, to exercise more and to eat less. (Our Medical Correspondent writes).

The evidence that the treatment of mild to moderate hypertension reduces the incidence of coronary heart disease as well as of cerebral vascular disease has only recently been accepted and this delay must have affected the mortality figures here.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

JAL pilot's 'dangerous' manoeuvres

Tokyo.—A preliminary report from the Japan Airlines crash in which 24 people died in the Bay of Tokyo in February 9 said that the pilot had carried out dangerous manoeuvres during a flight on the previous day.

The report, by the Transport Ministry's Aviation Accident Investigation Committee, also confirmed that the pilot, Captain Seiji Katagiri, had behaved strangely to and before the crash. "Come to stop it please" were co-pilot's final words on the flight recorder.

Experts believe that the pilot put two engines into reverse thrust just as the plane came into land, braking it sharply.

Sikkim ruler's funeral pyre

Gangtok, India.—About 20,000 Sikkimese attended the funeral of the former Chogyal (ruler) of Sikkim, Palden Thowdup Namgyal, who steadfastly opposed his kingdom's annexation by India in 1975.

The coffin, draped in the former national flag of Sikkim, was carried more than two miles in a slow procession from the royal monastery in Gangtok to the hilltop cremation site where it was burnt on a funeral pyre 8,000 ft up.

Body from sunk frigate found

Cape Town.—The body of one of 16 seamen missing after the South African Navy frigate President Kruger sank has been found, but hopes have dwindled for the survival of the others.

The 2,300-ton vessel collided with the supply ship Tafelberg during a gale off the Cape of Good Hope.

Ambush kills 20

Delhi.—Separationists killed 20 Indian soldiers today in an ambush in India's north-eastern state of Manipur. Five other soldiers were wounded, one of them seriously.

Metro death toll

Moscow.—Between 15 and 30 people are now believed to have died when the escalator in a Moscow metro station gave way during the rush hour on Wednesday.

The early Seventies will go down in history as one of the most turbulent, disruptive and dangerous periods ever known to mankind.

Russia taunted China, East provoked West, the Arabs plunged the world's economies into chaos with a dizzying surge

in the price of oil, Watergate burst and America impeached her own President.

At one stage, while the Yom Kippur War raged in the Middle East, nuclear conflict between the super-powers seemed inevitable.

International brinkmanship reached

a level that made the Bay of Pigs look like a garden-party.

Henry Kissinger was, quite literally, right in the middle of it all.

Throughout the period, he appeared to be constantly getting on or off airplanes. Arriving and departing —

America's Secretary of State — "the world's best travelled, glorified messenger-boy."

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His unique account, his first-hand observation and analysis, will go down in history as possibly the most significant documentation of all time.

The serialisation of "Years of upheaval," the second volume of his memoirs, starts tomorrow in the Sunday Times.

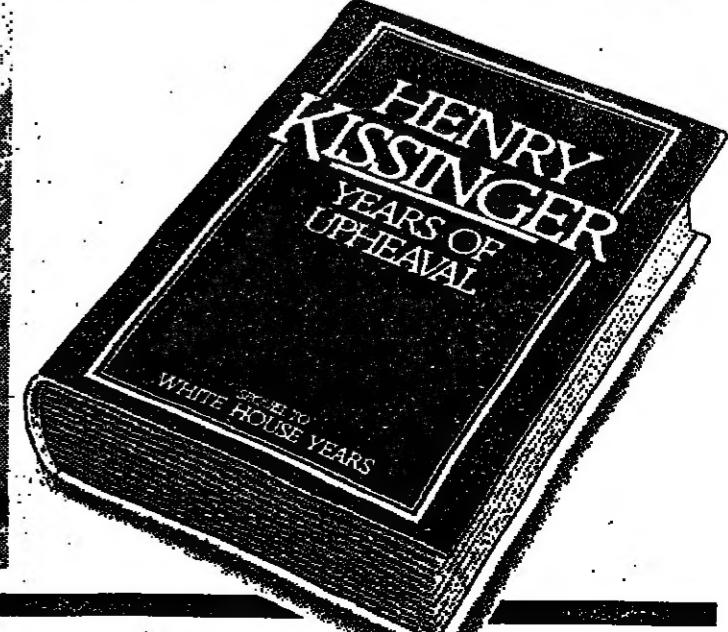
It's a brilliantly written, striking cascade of anecdotes, vignettes, dramatic highlights and personal portraits of the great, not-so-great and just plain notorious.

And although it cannot single-handedly explain the world we live in today, it does, more than anything else, put it all into perspective.

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NOT FINISHED YET

Examining the troubles of the western alliance, not one of our four contributors this week succumbed to total despair. None thought the alliance would fall apart or had outlived its usefulness. All believed its problems were remediable. This is encouraging, though no cause for complacency.

Mr Brzezinski was worried by "progressive dilution of Western cohesion" but thought it could be stopped if we could re-establish a degree of east-west accommodation and avoid re-igniting the Cold War. Herr Brandt's plea was similar. He strongly rejected suggestions that West German loyalty to the alliance might be wavering and said the issue was not the existence of Nato but its policies. Europeans, he said, merely wanted to maintain Nato's long-standing policy of combining military equilibrium, political defence and balanced disarmament.

M Couve de Murville pointed out that the alliance had always been plagued by disputes and ambiguities but its future was not in question: "The fundamental interests of the two parties to the alliance, the American and the European, coincide and that is why I believe this association will last forever". Nevertheless, he suggested, it would be desirable if the Americans would agree to treat the Europeans as adults.

Finally Mr Callaghan said firmly that "there is no prospect of the alliance breaking up". But there was, he said, a real worry that it could become so divided as to be incapable of taking concerted action. "We have recently lost sight of a common political purpose, and, without that, military strategy exists in a vacuum... There is growing up a basic difference between the way in which America and Europe view the world, and

until our broad perceptions come together again, the alliance will be ineffective".

That is really the nub of the matter. Europeans mostly feel that the east-west détente of the 1970s was a success because it reduced the danger of war in Europe, opened eastern Europe to western influence, and got arms control talks under way. Americans tend to feel it was a failure because the Russians continued to build up their weaponry and extend their influence in the Third World. Hence the Americans feel a need to return to a policy of active military containment while the Europeans feel that Soviet power can be managed without resort to world-wide confrontation which would jeopardize the gains of détente in Europe.

This failure to agree on the nature of the Soviet threat and the best way of countering it is one of the central causes of friction in the alliance. In European eyes the Americans never really understood détente. In the early 1970s many Americans thought it meant partnership with the Soviet Union in maintaining a stable world order whereas, in fact, of course, the Soviet Union was always wholly frank about regarding it as a framework within which the struggle — even armed struggle — for influence would continue.

When the Americans woke up to this it was a shock, but it should not have been. Moreover it was less the Russians than the turmoil in American politics in the 1970s that undermined Dr Kissinger's attempts to confront the Soviet Union with a coherent system of rewards and penalties. Properly managed détente was never fully tested because it was undermined from both extremes of American politics. At the

same time, however, the Europeans can be justly criticized for being insufficiently alert to Soviet threats to their interests outside the Nato area. This has contributed to American sense of loneliness and betrayal.

It would probably help if attention could be concentrated for a while less on specific issues and more on trying to establish a common view of the world's problems, and especially of the Soviet threat. This, if it could be achieved, would provide a foundation of consensus on which to plan specific responses. It would also enable the alliance to get a better order or priorities into its thinking. At the moment each issue tends to be treated as a major test of alliance cohesion. Yet what really matters is that the alliance should act together when faced with an event that could alter the balance of world power in favour of the Soviet Union. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan was such an event. The seizure of American hostages in Iran was not. Nor is military rule in Poland, no matter how regrettable. The alliance cannot be united on everything. Let it keep its vital interests in view.

Last but far from least the alliance should be looking not just at the Soviet threat but at other threats to peace and security, including especially the growing economic

stresses within the western world which are being aggravated by Mr Reagan's budget deficit, as Mr Herr Schmidt has just warned. If the Americans want a healthy alliance to face external threats they must pay heed to warnings of this sort. It would be absurd if the rumparts of the western world were to crumble under the weight of weaponry intended to defend it.

CORK'S LAST CHANCE

Sir Kenneth Cork, familiar provider of a better class of financial funeral service, has set himself and his colleague a demanding task over the next few weeks in the attempt to make a success of the De Lorean car company. Voluntary receivership is clearly the company's best hope of survival in something like its present form. There was no point in putting in more public money trying to prevent that the existing financial structure could be kept in being. The government has effectively written off most of £70m and another £40m or £50m needs to be found in the next few weeks if anything is to be saved.

The Cork report says that if his extra money can be found the plant can be made viable. It is in the interests of everyone that he and his fellow receiver should succeed. Unemployment in Northern Ireland is 20 per cent of the workforce; in West Belfast there are pockets where every other man is out of work. The loss of over 2,500 jobs there would be a grievous blow and an injustice one for the De Lorean workforce has responded well. If Sir Kenneth Cork cannot succeed the govern-

ment will have to take other steps to generate jobs. But success will do what it was originally hoped the De Lorean investment would do: to restore confidence and excite further investment.

There are some lessons from the affair. It would be facile to say that the original decision must have been wrong. Not so long ago, when things seemed to be going well, the Department of Trade and Industry was being attacked for not securing a larger share of the risk-taking equity. The venture was, in fact, a reasonable risk and of course it might still flourish.

Where there does seem genuine ground for criticism is in the role of government after the decision to invest had been made. Mr Prior spoke sharply yesterday about the role of management mistakes. Mr De Lorean has said he sometimes had bad financial advice. Government was represented through the Northern Ireland office. It was, in effect, the banker to the project. But it does not seem to have kept the close contact with its clients that it ought to have done and the government-appointed directors on the board of the company do not seem to have

played a particularly effective role. Their presence was meant to be the guarantee that the public stake was being protected. Any future arrangement in which public money is involved ought to organize public scrutiny more effectively.

These principles will need to be borne firmly in mind if the restructured company asks the Government for any further support. The level of unemployment in Northern Ireland is so high that the Government ought to be willing to take greater risks to help activity there than in the rest of the country. But any new plan has to show real proof that it is laying the basis for permanent jobs at a reasonable cost. In particular, there will have to be convincing evidence that the fall in De Lorean sales in the United States is a temporary problem caused by uncertainty and market conditions rather than a deeper seated defect in the design aspect of the car.

If the new company can save jobs on that basis it ought to receive cordial backing. But if the slimmer bird will not fly, gull wings and all, it will be as well to recognise it and let the processes begin yesterday to continue their normal course.

BETTER IN THAN OUT

Matters must have come to a pretty pass in the world outside our prisons when the courts have to deal with citizens accused of breaking out of them but in Mr Whitelaw and other proponents of the short sharp shock will have to reconsider their philosophy if further cases like the one recently reported at Wormwood Scrubs indicate a radical shift in the balance of supply and demand in penal affairs. The prisons are so overcrowded already that the authorities had need no reminder that turning away volunteers, harsh though it may seem, is quite unavoidable. Those who are in prison by no choice of their own must be given the priority they deserve.

There has always been a humanitarian dilemma implicit in the fact that no man who has contrivance enough to get himself into prison is likely to let himself starve on the doorstep. In the past, a rick hurled at a police station's blue lamp on Christmas Eve was proverbially a passport to the thin festivities of a prison banquet. But the temptation upon the authorities to adjust the prison regime to maintain the social gradient between conditions inside and out must always defer to the obligation to guarantee the basic necessities of treatment

to defeat the art of lexicography. Until last year, broadcasting of this kind was banned in Britain. But the Government was presented with a problem. The British, whose instincts are canankerous rather than democratic, began to show a determination to indulge in illicit transmissions.

In what must be regarded as a stroke of notable statesmanship, the government announced that Citizens' Band would be made legal. Electronics dealers stocked up on a large scale in expectation of a rush. For a few weeks after Emancipation Day all seemed well. But the boom ended almost before it had begun. It became apparent that the British did not really want Citizens' Band now they had it. Why should they? They had made their point, but as usual they had nothing to say to each other, particularly not to people they had not been properly introduced to, and least of all when identified as Bushy Tail of Bagshot or Caddis Fly of St Andrews. By making it legal, the government had made it uninteresting. It remains to be seen whether the principle at work in this instance is capable of wider application.

It will be instructive in due time to compare the success of the contrasted approach adopted by Mr Norman Tebbit.

In the United States, a nation where democratic instincts are deeply ingrained, Citizens' Band has become an institution, an ethereal hubub of gossip and slang so exuberant and evanescent as

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Israel and Syria: grounds for comparison

From the Israeli Ambassador

Sir, The Times has spoken out no more than twice on Middle East issues within a 72-hour period. One might wonder if the danger lies not in the vast acquisition of land by countries sworn to use them in order of taking down states by the name of Israel but in the continued ability of that state to provide for its defence. I quote from *The Times*: "No, the country by which Jordan feels directly threatened — and against which it feels especially vulnerable in the air — is of course ('of course') Israel".

What evidence does *The Times* have for levelling such a serious charge and at such a difficult time? Who got up whom in 1957? Who could not resist joining the fray in 1973? And who exercised the maximum possible restraint in both cases?

One can only speculate on the application to the European scene of a line of argument by which a score of Arab states bristling with more arms than all of Nato is described as being threatened by a state of 3,500,000 Israelis, constrained as they are in numbers, resources, arms and geographic configuration.

The danger lies not in the bloody excesses of a brutal regime and its openly professed expansionist designs, as attested by a 20,000 strong army of occupation in Lebanon today and a massive military invasion of Syria some years ago. "The danger [is] that Israel... might take advantage of Syrian weakness to launch a large-scale invasion of Southern Lebanon..."

One is left to wonder how *The Times* proposes in the future to back up its strictures of the Poles for the "mere" imposition of martial law now that it has designated the perpetrator of mass slaughter in Hama as no less than "statesmanlike".

I should be grateful if you would be kind, and judicious, enough to allow these lines to be shared with your distinguished readership.

Yours faithfully,
SHLOMO ARGOV,
Embassy of Israel,
2 Palace Green, W8.

Constitution of SDP

From Mr Ian Wrigglesworth, MP for Teesside Thornaby (SDP)

Sir, Your leader of Monday, February 15, betrayed some misconceptions about the SDP that have grown up over recent months. It was never intended that there should be "central direction" in the party by the leadership or anyone else.

For the last 10 months the party had been operating under the interim constitution formulated during February and March of last year by the members of the Council for Social Democracy. It was published when the party was launched and conferred certain powers and responsibilities upon a national steering committee.

One of the most important of those tasks was to prepare a constitution for the SDP and to

obtain approval for it from the membership. As soon as these tasks have been carried out the interim constitution will become defunct and the national steering committee disbanded to be replaced by elected bodies and officers. Last weekend's convention and the postal ballot of the whole membership to be held in the next few weeks will be the final part of that process.

We will then put into operation what we believe will be the most democratic constitution of any party in Great Britain, giving the fullest possible powers to the membership. It hasn't been possible to do it all in five minutes, but it is quite wrong to think that "central direction" was ever intended or sought.

Yours faithfully,
IAN WRIGGLESWORTH,
House of Commons.
February 17.

Social science cuts

From Professor Norman Long and Dr Jorge Dandler

Sir, In an otherwise well-balanced overview of Social Science Research Council projects and functions (*The Times*, January 15, "Why Lord Rothschild should not swing the axe"), Robert Jones suggests that research on "diversified household enterprise and labour process in the Andes" (currently being carried out by myself and Dr Dandler, "could be labelled esoteric"). The article does not reveal the criteria upon which such a judgment might be based but simply contrasts "esoteric" research with that described as "relevant to a country facing a severe economic crisis and having serious problems relating to unemployment and ethnic minorities".

This assessment we find strangely galling since one of our research objectives is to examine the survival strategies of households facing extreme scarcity of resources, very limited employment opportunities, and having poor standards of living. Also, as those who know the Andean situation can confirm, these

social problems are in fact partly related to differences of ethnic status whereby poor "Indian" peasants and miners are often exploited by richer " mestizo" entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, we would argue that the study of household economy (i.e. the understanding of how families manage their economic affairs and attempt to meet their basic consumption requirements) in the Andes (or elsewhere) has wider significance than the specific social and cultural context to which it refers. Indeed our findings could, we believe, offer fresh insights into the livelihood and domestic problems of poorer households in the British Isles, especially those living in the less developed regions which, under present government policy, feel the full brunt of the economic crisis.

Why therefore should an investigation of the experiences and dilemmas encountered by poor Andean peasants and miners be considered "esoteric"?

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN LONG,
JORGE DANDLER,
16 Winter Hill,
Durham City.
January 29.

Music teaching

From Mr Dennis Wicksens

Sir, It is astonishing to learn of the proposal of the Hertsford and Worcester Education Committee to dispense entirely with instrumental tuition in their schools. Acknowledging that last year's High Court ruling on the matter of charges may indeed have posed problems for the authority, they must surely deserve the weight of public protest it has aroused.

It is beyond comprehension that the remarkable and ever-rising standards attained as the result of years of hard work on the part of schools, encouraged by the dedicated and distinguished leadership of the county's former music advisers, Mr A. W. Benoy and Mr Henley Jenkins, should appear to be considered totally dispensable.

The Music Advisers' National Association view with very great concern the likely effect on the morale of the schools and the

deprivation of a very large number of young people of an important dimension to their educational and social fulfilment. Furthermore, it is pertinent to observe that the national criteria for the proposed new examination at 16 plus require that all pupils taking the music examination must (rightly, in the view of the association) offer performance.

It is to be hoped that when this matter is brought before the full council on February 25 they will reject what can only be described as an act of vandalism and request the committee to produce a proposal in keeping with the spirit of the resolution adopted at the CLEA (Council of Local Education Authorities) conference in July, 1981.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WICKENS, Chairman,
Music Advisers' National
Association,
County Music Centre,
Gordon Road,
Winchester.

to endure sketches of classrooms of students falling asleep during Canadian history lectures; society matrons wondering how anyone wire-tapping Canadians could stay awake and uncountable boring references to Canadians' inescapable boredom.

Still, I suppose it is something different to read about while sitting in the dark tunnels of the Northern Line, waiting for the Camden Town junction to be sorted out... just as soon as whooever's supposed to do that has finished his tea.

You're all a bunch of losers. Take off, eh!

Yours, etc.,
MARK PHILLIPS, Canadian
Broadcasting Corporation,
4351 Great Titchfield Street, W1.
February 18.

In the past months one has had

Latin may be to pass a stroke. That's what we have done to his life. His memories have about matched later by Bobby Mohammed Arafat.

Pouring? Tea, I presume? Yours faithfully,
COLIN MURISON SMALL,
21 Burbridge Road, SE24.
February 18.

Letters to the editor

From Professor Martin Biddle and others

Sir, Over the past 18 months you have printed several letters expressing serious concern about the maintenance and presentation of ancient monuments in the care of the Department of the Environment. Recently, you have drawn attention to the department's consultation paper, *Organisation of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings in England*, which proposes the creation of a para-governmental agency to look after these matters and to which reactions have to be made by February 26, 1982.

Neither the letters nor the consultation paper have said much about the archaeological aspects of the department's activities. The department's current policy of funding rescue archaeology on a project-only basis has thrown the main responsibility for the maintenance of a permanent archaeological presence in our cities and counties on to local government. This is at a time when the same Secretary of State is seeking to hold down local authority expenditure by every means open to him.

This inconsistency (or deliberate policy) has begun to bear fruit. The Policy, Resources, and Finance Committee of Hereford and Worcester County Council has just decided to cut the county museum budget by £30,000, or 45.2 per cent, for the coming year and has recommended that this

The Sphinx's beard

From Mr Edward McWilliam

Sir, In Egypt the idea has been expressed that the beard of the Sphinx had a functional, buttressing effect rather like the squatting equestrian statue of Peter the Great in Leningrad. Certainly it is easy to believe that its loss has contributed to the deterioration.

Although the Egyptians have not, as yet, asked for the return of the bit of beard in the British Museum, when we visit the magnificent Egyptian galleries and think what we owe to Egypt, would it not be an appropriate gesture, were we not only to return our piece but to offer help in the restoration?

The fact that the lump of stone in question is devoid of any aesthetic interest and has merely been taking up space in a store room for the past 50 years need not influence the Museum's decision.

Yours faithfully,
F. E. McWILLIAM,
20 Ryecroft Road, SW16.

Lead pollution

From the President of the Institution of Environmental Health Officers

Sir, In the understandable interest in lead in petrol and the need to reduce it or phase it out, it must not be overlooked that the lead problem is a multi-source lead problem. The total body burden of any individual is the sum of all the sources of lead including food, water, air, dust and industrial emissions. For example, the Department of the Environment initiated a national survey of lead in tap water and in the subsequent report, *Lead in Drinking Water*, it was shown that in Great Britain 9 per cent of household samples had lead concentrations exceeding the World Health Organisation recommended maximum limit, a limit itself twice as high as a proposed EEC limit.

In the United States lead-based paint is regarded as the most important high-dose source of serious lead poisoning in children. Regular child screening programmes are carried out and in 1980 507,925 children were screened and 26,519 required a diagnostic evaluation for lead toxicity. During the same year 16,408 dwellings were inspected and 11,991 found with lead paint. This work is facilitated by the use of cheap, small, portable equipment for the detection of lead in paint — equipment designed in the United States but not available in this country.

It is essential that every step should be taken to reduce all sources of environmental lead and most urgently those sources most likely to affect the critical group in the population, namely the pre-school child. But campaigns need to be reinforced by positive action. This means screening campaigns of pre-school children, especially those living in the inner-city areas, followed up by medical and

environmental investigation and intervention in the case of each child exhibiting elevated blood lead levels.

The work needs to be supplemented by an educational campaign for health workers, housing officers and parents

Saturday Review

THE Washington SCANDALS

Is there woodworm in that cherry tree? Which was he really, the paragon or the stallion of the Potomac? Or was he a woman? Marcus Cunliffe weighs the evidence

The decline of America, according to a 1970s joke, was expressed by the shift from George Washington who could not tell a lie, to Richard Nixon who could not tell the truth. The joke actually has an older lineage. During the Nixon years someone said that from Washington who could not tell a lie, the country had come to Franklin D Roosevelt who could not tell the truth, and then to Lyndon B Johnson who could not tell the difference. And of the centennial celebration of 1876, in the inglorious presidency of General Grant, a wit said that the United States had slumped from Washington, who could not... etc., to Grant who could not tell the truth...

I expect the gag can be traced back even further. It has obviously done yeoman service. A long run of American presidents and other dignitaries has proved vulnerable to accusations of prevarication, malversation, fornication and the like. What is more, such scandals seem peculiarly apt to surface on patriotic anniversaries. The 1982 commemoration of FDR's 100th birthday has been a little marred. FDR's reputation was already impaired by the disclosure of his protracted love affair with Lucy Mercer, and of his callous treatment of his wife Eleanor. The subsequent news of conversations taped by FDR in his White House office produced a fresh crop of tales that he had shown a salacious interest in the amours of contemporaries, including his Republican rival Wendell Willkie. Recent revelations of tapings by John F Kennedy (he too already established, to have been something of a womanizer) have chipped off more paint and plaster from the image of Camelot.

Where does it stop? In 1976 the bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence was slightly soured by controversy over the morals of the Declaration's chief author, Thomas Jefferson. A book by Fawn Brodie, *Thomas Jefferson: An Intimate History*, revived an ancient allegation, that Jefferson took as mistress a Monticello house slave, Sally Hemings, who over the years bore him five children; but that he, renowned humanitarian, set free neither Sally nor her offspring.

The accusation has been answered by Virginia Dabney in another book, *The Jefferson Scandals*. Dabney quite convincingly argues that the father of Sally Hemings's children was a nephew of Jefferson.

What is notable is that George Washington is usually taken to be the benchmark, the absolute contrast, the perfect man. Is this true, or a legend? The 250th anniversary of his birth falls on February 22, 1982, which also happens to be the fiftieth birthday of Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Chappaquiddick notoriety. Will gossips seize upon anecdotes to indicate that the *Pater Patriae* was no better than the rest?

It seems unlikely. However, Washington did attract gossip, while he was alive and at intervals thereafter. Most of the stories relate to his supposed sexual behaviour. They were scrutinized in some detail

by biographers of the 1920s, when "debunking" was in fashion. At the end of the 1920s the archivist-biographer John C. Fitzpatrick, a devoted admirer, rebutted a number of allegations in *The George Washington Scandals*, a pamphlet from which I freely draw. Other scholars have in the main agreed with Fitzpatrick.

He believes that prurient rumour started in July 1775, when Washington had just joined the Continental Army as commander-in-chief, outside Boston, and received a letter from a friend in Virginia, Benjamin Harrison. Harrison was a prominent member of one of the colony's great families and possibly a sensualist. The New Englander John Adams, who disapproved of a good many people, once described Harrison as "an indolent, luxurious, heavy gentleman."

The letter was unremarkable except for one paragraph. Harrison, saying that he liked to pass on "some of these adventures" to take Washington's mind off the war, told of an encounter with "pretty little Kate, the washerwoman's daughter... clean, trim, and rosy as the morning." Kate was evidently willing to meet him half way, so that he would be able to "ready" her "for my General against his return" to Virginia.

Harrison's role as pander to Washington was referred to again, a year later, in an American Loyalist play, *The Battle of Brooklyn*. This farce derided the colonists for military incompetence. It also in passing introduced a confession from a maid-servant named Betty. Betty said that Benjamin Harrison had bribed her to sleep with him, a disagreeable bargain, and had passed her on to Washington, whom she found less repugnant.

Another legend concerns another letter, supposedly an invitation to visit Washington's Mount Vernon, with the inducement that the guest will be provided with an attractive octogenarian slave girl. The invitation is variously said to have been addressed to Jefferson, to Hamilton, and to Lafayette. According to Fitzpatrick, no historian had ever set eyes on



WASHINGTON

the invitation, though plenty of people claimed to have spoken to other people who had seen it.

Another Washington scandal appeared in London in the shape of a transcript of minutes of a hearing on a conspiracy to assassinate or kidnap Washington in New York, while he briefly held the city in 1776. A member of his bodyguard, Thomas Hickey, was in fact tried and hanged for complicity in such a plot. The London transcript (published by John Bew) cited evidence implicating Washington in an affair with one Mary Gibbons, "a girl from New Jersey" whom he kept in a house where he came "very

often late at night in disguise." Mary Gibbons extracted information from him, sometimes through his unguarded talk and sometimes by having the papers in Washington's pocket copied and returned while he was so

to speak, otherwise engaged.

Finally, yet another batch of Washington letters was published in London (again by Bew) in 1777, and reprinted in New York at the Loyalist press of James Rivington. One letter was addressed by Washington to his wife Martha, protesting in a blend of irritability and lavish endearment that he was too busy to write often in this at the very time when, the Bew

pamphlet insinuated, he was heavily involved with Mary Gibbons.

The common feature of all these documents is that they were British or Loyalist concoctions, mingling fact and fancy with a fair degree of ingenuity. Harrison's original letter to Washington was intercepted by the enemy. Someone added the paragraph about "Kate" before transmitting the copy to Lord Dartmouth in London. It was printed, with the forged portion, in *The Gentleman's Magazine* (September 1775) and reprinted in North America, where it was widely regarded as genuine.

"Kate" became transformed into "Betty" (*The Battle of Brooklyn*), and both of them into "Mary Gibbons" (in Bew's *Minutes*, a complete fabrication of a non-existent hearing). The 1777 volume of letters combined authentic, unaltered Washington letters with half a dozen entire forgeries (probably done by John Randolph, a Virginian Loyalist exiled in London who was well acquainted with Washington and the Mount Vernon house hold).

Letters figure prominently in Washington legend partly on account of different types of forgery, those aimed at the

Posey, beginning, "My dear Son".

Fitzpatrick countered by proving that Washington had actually written "My dear Sir", noting that Posey was only one of several children in the district helped by Washington. Fitzpatrick goes on: "If every child whose education was assisted by Washington were to be stigmatized, in consequence, as his natural off-spring, the distinction of being the Father of His Country might take on a new meaning."

The myths extend even to

the circumstances of Washington's death in December 1799. Orthodox history has

it that he caught a chill from riding round his farms in cold weather. Legend, however, places him in a draughty shed with the wife of an overseer.

There are certain entirely opposite speculations, as to Washington's apparent lack of sexuality. The most bizarrely intriguing — material for a counterfeiter's novel, perhaps by a witty feminist — is that Washington was really a woman. This suspicion could conceivably have been planted by some English fantasist intending to impugn the masculinity of the great American chieftain. A likelier theory is that it provided for the chivalry of George and Martha Washington, despite the fact that she had borne four children in a previous marriage. (Genteel biographers avoided the subject; more recent writers suggest that George was made sterile by a childhood attack of mumps.)

If there ever was conspiracy to hide unseemly aspects of Washington's life, it no longer exists. But in two centuries of outwardly deferential yet pertinacious digging, nothing sensational discrediting has been turned up. The scholars now testify that Washington liked to drink wine, to play cards, to place bets, and now and then pay compliments to women such as Mrs Powel of Philadelphia; and that he was probably in love with someone else when he became engaged to Martha Custis. Otherwise, Washington does indeed seem to have led a singularly blameless life.

Has he then been vilely slandered, as Fitzpatrick and suchlike devotees claim? It is clear that various groups of contemporaries were motivated to deride or denounce him. When he was President, opposition journalists and his former admirer Tom Paine, accused him of arrogance, extravagance and hypocrisy. John Adams was among the American leaders who, with some justification, complained that Washington was being deified, as if he and he alone directed the nation in war and peace.

Delight in gossip's sake must also be taken into the reckoning. Gossip columnists are often malicious in their treatment of celebrities. But they supply a double need on the part of the public: to be given glimpses of life led at a higher level than their own, but also to be assured that the great are basically the same as themselves.

In the light of such considerations, the surprising feature is not that Washington attracted some scandal but that he was the target of so little. Again, much of it can be seen as appreciative rather than hostile. "Stallion of the Potomac" is surely a kind of commendation? Still, it is nice for Americans in 1982 to feel that whoever else is revealed to have been all too human, George Washington remains exemplary.

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Marcus Cunliffe, formerly Professor of American Studies at the University of Sussex, now at George Washington University, Washington DC, is the author of a standard biography of America's first president.

This is the start of a series of articles about rural life by the distinguished writer Susan Hill, in the form of edited extracts from her new book, *The Magic Apple Tree*, a brilliantly evocative account of the country year 1980-81. Susan Hill's novels have won her the Whitbread, Somerset Maugham and John Llewellyn Rhys prizes: this book, her first for some years, will be published by Hamish Hamilton on April 29. The first extract records the day the snow fell...

old house. But by six o'clock there had been one of those sudden changes. I opened the door to let in Hastings, the black cat, and sensed it at once. The wind had dropped and died, everything was still and dark as coal, no moonlight, not a star showed through the cloud cover, and it was just a degree warmer. I could smell the approaching snow. Everything waited.

Another hour later, setting off for the W.I. I saw the first, fat flakes as they came softly down and settled at once as they touched the ground. I bent and touched the snow. They were oddly dry, grainy. They would last. I put on my coat and boots and took the lantern.

The W.I. hall, which was the village school a hundred years ago, stands in the lee of the church of St Nicholas at the top of the lane that leads from Moon Cottage. It is a tall, thin, gabled building, with high windows and poor lighting, and the walls are curiously adorned with sporting trophies, the antlered heads of long-dead stags, and glass cases full of stuffed fox, fish and stoat.

There are no street lights in Barley and on a dark night like this you cannot see further than the end of your nose. But ahead, up the lane, I could see other lanterns and torches bobbing on, as

the ladies made their way up to the hall. In the doorway, we tested the temperature of the building and kept on our coats and scarves and boots.

People coming in cars from outlying farms, or the next village, which does not have an institute, spoke merrily of the bad weather forecast and the need to get away early, snow powdered hats and shoulders and was filling up the ruts in the cart track outside, softly, steadily.

Our domestic business was hurried through. The speaker for the evening, who had come twelve miles to tell us about her travels in Arabia (at the age of seventeen), was in a direct line from those intrepid female adventurers

who crossed mountain ranges by mule with only native scouts for company, and ventured into remote and dangerous areas of the desert in search of early pottery

fragments. Her talk was later described in the minutes as "fascinating" but she gave it at top speed and omitted the showing of her slides altogether, so nervous was she about being marooned in Barley by the bad weather.

By nine o'clock we had disbanded and the snow was inches deep and still falling like goose feathers. It was a convivial, even giddy walk down the dark lane, with elderly ladies clutching one another's arms, torches dropped and extinguished at once buried in the snow, and a certain air of excitement, for all the complaining.

Next morning, the snow had turned pink, and the sky was pink, too, the whole field between fields seemed to glow with it, as the sun rose. I opened the front door and stepped out and up to my knees in snow. The steps were not to be seen, and the stone wall dividing us from the Buttercup field, below the apple tree, was concealed too, under the hummocks and billows of wind-blown snow.

After an hour or so of hard digging, scraping and shovelling back, we carved a narrow path out to the lane, but no further. Moon Cottage was cut off from Geranium Cottage, belonging to our neighbour Mr Elder, and from Fen

Cottage opposite, and School Lane was cut off from the rest of the village, and the village from the world. Across the snow, we saw other people with shovels and waved to them, stranded on our island. I wondered about old Miss Reeves, alone in the very last cottage, before the lane peters out into the fields, and how much food we had and how long it would be before my husband Stanley would get to work again.

Extremes of bad weather and being isolated by them brings out the best in village communities and shows up all the strengths and failings of life. There are about five hundred souls in Barley, and more than half of them are over sixty, quite a few a little over eighty. It is a companionable village, and fairly compact but, because of its situation, set on a hill, it is badly placed for vehicles to negotiate the lanes in snow and ice. It was only two and a half days before the ploughs got to us, fast followed by the delivery vans, and before we ourselves could, albeit hazardously, get out, but I have not enjoyed a time so well for years, or felt so at home with my neighbours, so useful and purposeful.

The young and the strong trudged through the snow to share supplies and take messages, the housebound and elderly made hot drinks and received more visitors on those few days than often during weeks of normal life. Meals-on-wheels became meals-on-foot, the village school remained closed, but for once the pub was entirely full of locals only, and its car park was empty.

And all day children slid and tobogganed, ran and tumbled and pelted one another; standing at the window, I looked down on such scenes as Brueghel created, and at the end of the afternoon the lanes were lined with colourless gnomes, the little ones half asleep, pulled on shoulders, noses red as berries, hands raw as meat, voices hoarse with shouting. It was the most carefree, joyous of interludes, the world was as far off as the moon, and just as unreal, its doings could not touch us. I wanted it never to end.

But walking at dawn on Saturday, I heard the slip and slide and bump of loosening snow, the patter of rain on the windows. The sky was the colour of a gull's back and the snow just a little darker, already smirched and soiled-looking. The thaw had begun.

Next: Mr Ash the woodman
© Susan Hill, 1982

In the country/Susan Hill

Robin Jacques

Winter comes to Barley

the ladies made their way up to the hall. In the doorway, we tested the temperature of the building and kept on our coats and scarves and boots. People coming in cars from outlying farms, or the next village, which does not have an institute, spoke merrily of the bad weather forecast and the need to get away early, snow powdered hats and shoulders and was filling up the ruts in the cart track outside, softly, steadily.

Our domestic business was hurried through. The speaker for the evening, who had come twelve miles to tell us about her travels in Arabia (at the age of seventeen), was in a direct line from those intrepid female adventurers who crossed mountain ranges by mule with only native scouts for company, and ventured into remote and dangerous areas of the desert in search of early pottery

game at a stroke. That's what we been his life. His memories and about a month later by Bobby [Mohammed Amin]

for all that Barley lies in a comparatively mild inland county and for all that much of the winter is often grey, fog and damp, there are bouts of severe weather and then, because we stand on a hill, and all the approaches to us are uphill ones, and because we are, so to speak, dead end, on the road to no other village or town, we are very exposed to blizzard and bitter winds. It was on the second Tuesday in January in the W.I. night — that last winter became a serious and dramatic matter, a cold, tiring, but exhilarating time, at least for the young, and a companionable time for all, when we were stranded, snowbound and sealed off, in place and, it seemed, in time too,

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Photograph by Clive Barstow



Sir Colin Davis

who conducts "Die Meistersinger" at Covent Garden on Monday

Next week's performances at the Royal Opera House of *Die Meistersinger*, which has not been heard there for a decade, contain any number of firsts and one possible last. Sir Geraint Evans has just announced his decision to retire from the stage this season after next and his may not be heard again as Beckmesser in the present run. But pre-judgment on this subject is dangerous: Evans has the stamp of a *Chariots of Fire* competitor and he is the only surviving link in this *Meistersinger* production. All the rest of the cast will be singing their roles for the first time in London and the tenor, Reiner Goldberg, will be making his house debut.

Hopes are high for Herr Goldberg's Walther von Stolzing, even in a world where the voice of the *Helden tenor* seems to bloom all too briefly at the moment. "The best since Melchior" is the kind of phrase that has been moving down the grapevine. It comes as a surprise, though, to find that Sir Colin Davis has never conducted Wagner before, even in the concert hall. Davis himself declines to raise an eyebrow at the fact.

"What's so strange? We should all leave something to renew our middle age and I'm very glad that I'm coming to *Meistersinger* at 54 and not at 34. Indeed I'm very glad I'm coming to it at all. I first started learning the score two years ago, when we planned this

revival, but last summer it looked to be off because we had no Walther. We knew there were three in East Germany and we managed to hear them in quick succession: Goldberg was quite clearly the best, he was free at the right time and *Meistersinger* was on again.

Now here we are in the middle of *Meistersinger*, Wagner's only comedy if you discount Siegfried's black comedy, an opera which is full of a sense of health, which you don't exactly find in *Tristan* or *The Ring*. It is bringing back memories of the 70s I grew up with as a kid — Joe Hislop, Schorr in the quintet, Vocal Gems they were called in those days. After Monday there will be two gaps in my Wagner repertory, *Lohengrin* and *Parsifal*, and I'm leaving *Parsifal* at the moment is a recording operation. We've done some

I'm not sure I want to conduct it.

Meistersinger can also be seen as part of Davis's German connexion, although he can

certainly claim to be a good European: only a few days ago he was awarded the Legion of Honour by the French. He takes up the post of principal conductor of the Bavarian Radio Orchestra in 1983 and is also forging links with the Dresden State Opera on the other side of the border.

"The German connexion, as you call it, has partially come because it's the only foreign language I've taken a lot of trouble to learn. Munich will involve 12 weeks a year; I like the city and I like the way the orchestra is run. There's always reasonable preparation time — none of that frantic, crush-as-much-as-you-can-into-the-day atmosphere of America. Dresden at the moment is a recording operation. We've done some

I'm not sure I want to conduct it.

Meistersinger is planned in co-operation with the East German VEB

label. Possibly there will be a *Fidelio* too. In Dresden I think we've been making some beautiful music: some will doubtless say that it is 'wrong', but it is undeniably beautiful. And that is what I want to create now that I'm in my last fifteen years as a conductor.

Fifteen is a distinctly disputable figure. Conductors have only been in the habit of closing the shutters at 70. Nor has Davis shown much sign of restlessness at Covent Garden, although it is a fair bet that he will leave in the mid-Eighties, by which time he will have completed a 15-year span there. Five years to weather the criticisms, five years to shape the house in the required image and five years to enjoy the rewards from a reasonably symmetrical pattern.

"I've got a few years to go yet at Covent Garden and remember that my work there is broken by other engagements. Michael Tippett's major choral work *The Mask of Time*, which will be premiered in Boston in the spring of 1984 and then heard at The Proms that summer. I feel at last that we've got the chorus and the orchestra working in the same direction at the Garden — watch the chorus on video and you can see how much effort they are putting into what they do. And I hope that will apply to *Meistersinger* on Monday.

"There's one of the strengths of the house at the moment. Another is the calibre of the conductors who come to us: Giulini with *Faust* this summer, Solti with *Rosenkavalier*, Muti, Abbado... When I do leave I want to ensure that I am followed by another music director or immediately. No gaps in the succession." John Higgins



Reiner Goldberg (Walther) and Robert Tear (David) in rehearsal for Meister singer

Television/Michael Church

A nostalgic wallow

"Well, it's started. God mother (odds on Miss York knows when it's going to stop)." Thus Susannah York, briefly from the sky. Reading my TV Times afterwards I was impressed to find that one of those lumbering Flying Fortresses was a ten-answer will come some time in May after one of those extended nostalgic wallows at which Tony Wharmby, its producer/director, excels.

Now that Channel Four has joined the Gadarene rush and commissioned its own dramatic *perpetuum mobile* we should surely not sneer at its paupery 13-parter, even if it does come in the compulsory Second World War uniform. As wallows go, this seems a wholesome one: there may have been quite a lot of innocent pleasure-seekers who found the weekly dive into the moral sewers of *Muck and Brass* faintly depressing, for all its stylisedness.

Not a hair was out of place in this opening episode "by" David Crane. The series was "created by" David Butler. The obligatory line "Don't you know there's a war on?" surfaced in the first five minutes and the tensions appropriate to the arrival of the American air force in a sleepy Suffolk town — happy females, outraged males — were swiftly and unerringly set up.

A troubled romance began, the foundations were laid for a fight over a handsome major between a girl and her

Televi/Elkan Allen

A golden oldie with promise

Whatever happened to Bernard Braden? That is a question the Canadian who was one of the great television personalities (terrible word, surpassed only by "celebrities") of the 1950s and 1960s finds wryly amusing. Whatever happened to him was an abrupt dropping of his contract by the BBC after he unwisely agreed to front some commercials for a couple of advertisers. Suddenly, nobody wanted him. There was a flurry of publicity.

The silence has lasted more than a decade. In that time, Braden has been living quietly in London, making occasional trips home and acting as producer for closed-circuit television programmes for industrial and sales efforts.

He has had his hopes for a return to British screens dashed repeatedly. One costly attempt may yet surface on Channel Four — a selection of 385 interviews with people he spotted as up-and-comers in 1967, brought up-to-date with new appearances 10 or, as it may now turn out, 14 years later. While not all his stars continued to sparkle, he picked well with Maureen Lipman and tennis star John Lloyd, then 12.

He thought he would be back in the big time a couple of years ago when he did a pilot for Thames for a five-night-a-week *Johnny Carson*-type show. But, despite ostensible enthusiasm among Thames executives, the series never happened, and Braden has stayed off the screen except for the very occasional guest appearance.

Just why this warm, talented, superbly professional, 65-year-old ex-actor is not in demand while demonstrably lesser, more bumbling contemporaries and some hopelessly younger "hosts" seem to be never off the screen, is a mystery I cannot begin to fathom. Maybe it is something to do with fashion: maybe it is more to do with lack of imagination among television executives.

Braden, however, is not a man to give up, and the reason I am writing all this about him now is that he telephoned out of the blue and asked me to come to his small Chelsea office to look at something he called the Golden Tape. More, he wouldn't say.

Those, too, were the only words on the box of the video cassette he slipped into his player. On the screen came the familiar cheery smile and wavy hair, needing

only a dab of dye at the temples to remove the slight trace of grey.

Behind a Braden's Week desk he is explaining what the Golden Tape is all about. He is going to give away two years' supply of free petrol to anyone who can spot 10 deliberate mistakes in the next half-hour. If more than one buyer of the tape spots them there is some sort of play-off. Look, he is saying, we've had one deliberate error already: there was a handkerchief in my top pocket a moment ago, now there isn't.

Very generous, one is murmuring to oneself and then suddenly the phone drops. What follows is half-an-hour of advertisements, all strung together by a *fourth* act: Bernie gently questioning a series of salesmen about the merits of their various products, which range from hand-cut crystal glass to an instant language course.

At this first viewing I didn't manage to spot a single mistake, deliberate or not, let alone 10, and it would doubtless take many closely-attended re-runnings of the tape to catch them all — which is, of course, precisely

He has produced 25,000 copies of this ingenious advertising medium which should be in the shops today (Feb 20), and has committed himself to awarding the prize in six weeks' time — a bold act in that he is deliberately restricting sales to a relatively short period. But he is confident they will all be sold out and is already planning the second edition. He understandably hopes that the winner will turn out to have a 50 mpg Mini-Metro used only occasionally for shopping rather than an eight-miles to the gallon Rolls commuting twice a week between London and Aberdeen. At £1.50 gallon that would work out at £25,000.

This use of the front of otherwise blank tapes for advertising is already established in the form of a product called *rewind*. There have been three of these revues so far, with only the most subtle sponsorship, and they have sold impressively well: the first two have totalled 40,000, at £2 over the regular blank tape price and the third, just on sale, is easily the best yet for content.

Now the company producing *rewind* is branching out with *Movi*, which will carry trailers for forthcoming films as well as news and filmed shorts about stars. Like the others it will be wipeable, leaving a tape virtually as pristine for one's own recording as a cassette purchased as a blank. The Golden Tape may be marginally less interesting, but it is cheaper.

I came away from Bernard Braden's flat with some sadness. Such prostitution of his undoubted talents was perhaps made inevitable by the cold shoulder he received from the people who should have been putting him on legitimate television, and for some reason we do not have the same approval of commercial scum as they do on the continent where he comes from.

I have no doubt that his Golden Tape will prove a great success for him, but equally sure that it will be the final nail in the coffin of his ambitions to return to regular programmes. This is an enormous shame; we have need of his cheeky questioning of the amateurish business behalf of the consumer.

Ali well, we shall have to have that to us as an ersatz research and assistant, Esther Raman. But come to think of it, whatever happened to Esther Raman?

Radio/David Wade

Brainwashing or laundering

"Brainwashing" we learnt from *Snapping*, last Tuesday's Radio 4 documentary, is a term sometimes corrupted from a Chinese phrase meaning "thought reform" and perhaps for such a hot subject we ought to adopt the second less emotive either as far as possible. The other more dramatic one has an acquired certain associations: it is what happens to victims of political indoctrination, or to those who, like many of the contributors to Gill Brown's most interesting programme, have been subjected to the techniques of the *monies*, the *Hare Krishna* folk and others. In short it seems to refer to something outside normal human experience.

The many people whom we heard were Americans and you may perhaps object that that puts them outside normal human experience anyway. Yet, while religious cultism has flourished as nowhere else in and around California, it also happens here and Gill Brown's account of its potential victims and its methods of recruiting and maintaining

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doctrines, but we are and have been all our lives on the receiving end of the beliefs and values of the culture we inhabit. Before thoughts can be "reformed", they have to be "formed": the latter process may have things in common with the first, very slow.

Coming after his sensitive short play, *Waiting for a Train*, Martyn Read's more ambitious *Where Were You the Night They Shot the President?* (Radio 4, Feb 15) was disappointing. Its over-insistent parallel between a young man's loss of innocence and the global loss of same suggested by the Kennedy assassination was a parallel in the true sense of the word: both themes went their way without contact or even rapprochement. And some of the "stronger" scenes foundered in melodrama.

In a week of long titles for long plays, Nigel Baldwin's *Letter to the Old Man on a Cassette Recorder* (Radio 3, Feb 18) did better. Cleverly using the device of a letter spoken on to tape, the author told us of a man trying to explain to his father how it comes about that he is now in prison for assisting in an act of Irish terrorism. I'm not sure that this history of a troubled boyhood as experienced by the boy become a man made the connexion with quite the necessary inevitability, but it did offer some useful illustrations of slow, progressive laundering of the brain.

Plainly such experiences are not for most of us, but hearing this programme it struck me that if we think they have no meaning for us in any degree at all, we may be wrong. Just as war represents the extreme of human quarrelsome, so "brainwashing" may be the gross manifestation of a common, even universal process. You and I may not be bombarded with cult

Theatre/Irving Wardle

A second voyage

Live and Be Hanged

Haymarket, Leicester

The last sight we had of Ann Bonny and Mary Read was as joint heroines in the ill-fated Aldwych production of Steve Goch's *The Women* four years ago. Although the play sank under them, it left a strong memory of those two bold girls and Peter Whitbread has now fitted them out for another voyage in which they sail under very different colours.

In Mr Goch's hands Ann and Mary featured as feminist avatars in a dialectic of class warfare. In *Live and Be Hanged* they simply embody the idea that taking risks is the only thing that

makes life worth living; and their feminism takes the form of sharing themselves round the crew on a regular timetable.

Whoever tells it, it is a good story. Ann came from a Charleston plantation and turned to buccaneering to escape an arranged marriage; Mary arrived on the high seas having already served as a soldier in Flanders. They join the crew of Calico Jack Rackham, the scourge of the Caribbean, and later his bittersweet love and pilgrimage with King George's men.

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makes life worth living; and their feminism takes the form of sharing themselves round the crew on a regular timetable.

The show is on much stronger ground as a straightforward romantic tale, admitting all the squalor of the pirate life without actually showing anybody suffering from scurvy; and lodging the entirely creditable idea that the implacable Captain Barnet (Malcolm Sinclair), who pursues Rackham and his crew, is a man of honour and a man of law and order.

Mr Whitbread attempts a defence of Calico Jack as a Robin Hood figure who

Concerts

Allegri Quartet

Queen Elizabeth Hall

It has long been fashionable to whisper of Beethoven's late quartets as the hallowed pinnacles of art, but those who try to know them will not doubt that the Razumovsky set, written 20 years earlier in the heat of the middle-period symphonies and concertos, are quite as extraordinary, challenging and revelatory.

This has been quite a Razumovsky week. On Monday there was a vital E minor from the Endellion, and then last night from the Allegri a fine performance of the F major quartet which Beethoven put at the head of the triptych.

The Allegri, however, emphasized not what is wilful in this work but what is natural. Bruno Schrecker, the cellist of the ensemble, led off with a sunny, relaxed

Philharmonia/Barshai

Festival Hall

Yet another Soviet conductor made the tally three in as many nights when Rudolf Barshai was the guest of the Philharmonia Orchestra last night. He was invited in place of Bernard Haitink, who is indisposed, and he brought one major change: from the programme, substituting Mahler's fourth symphony for Strauss in the second part, thanks partly to the availability at short notice of Sheila Armstrong to sing the child's vision of heaven in the finale.

Her bright tones like the opening of Mozart's C major piano concerto (K 467), and by dint of smooth yet flexible phrasing, she freed the slow movement of its sentimental associations.

Paul Griffiths

character more than its emotional expression. There were few of its usual tragic associations, either in the score or in the first dance of death was with its sister qualities or in the eruptions that disturb the lovely adagio.

The conductor kept this moving along, with each episode tidily in character and in relation to an underlying pulse throughout, allowing him to ventilate the orchestra texture so as to keep each instrumental strand clearly in focus and never to sound merely congested.

Sir Clifford Curzon brought an elegant formality to match the ceremonious opening of Mozart's C major piano concerto (K 467), and by dint of smooth yet flexible phrasing, he freed the slow movement of its sentimental associations.

Noel Goodwin

funk, powered by volcanic bass and Donald Johnstone's hairtrigger drumming.

Their cool, clipped delivery is the filter for the Davis influence and lends them a measure of real originality; no one should be fooled into believing

Jamaica/Michael Watkins

Slow and stop in the sun

Years ago, on my first visit to Jamaica, I used to watch a man outside the house where I was staying. He was sitting under a cassia tree. One bare foot rested on the other knee and he had put his straw hat under his head for a pillow. He wasn't selling anything and he wasn't waiting for a bus, and it irritated me that he remained so long, so uselessly. Now, as an old Jamaican hand, I know the answer. He was sitting. And maybe thinking a little. And when he got around to it, he'd get up and go away.

Caribbean lifestyle operates at two speeds: slow and stop. To accept this is to preserve sanity; to reject it invites trauma. "Soon come", they say when you ask for your breakfast/laundry-rented car — and never come at all. The telephone rings two thousand times before

anyone replies; then it's the wrong number. Electricity does eccentric things, like going out. Strange insects roam the bathroom floor. There are further insects, "No-seems" and "Mompums", small aeronautical creatures designed by our Heavenly Father to make us think better of mosquitoes.

It is not so much an intrinsic laziness or inefficiency as an adroitly sculptured way of life. A "boonoonos" way of life: "delightful", "marvellous" in Jamaican talk. There is only one way — go along with it or stay away.

I had stayed away too long. There has been trouble in Jamaica and I, along with the majority of regular visitors, had been too faint of heart to take a chance. In self-defence, it was quite a chance: gun murders, particularly in

the capital of Kingston, were a daily occurrence. Michael Manley, Prime Minister at the time, was accused of being a power-crazed totalitarian bent on delivering his country into the communist camp. The amber warning light glowed and Jamaica's powerful middle class tried to make a getaway. Foreign investment dried up; so too did tourism. It was said that many Jamaicans stole to their mistress, with the most bizarre result.

One could say perhaps that Montego Bay is like that. Sophisticated. Men wear off-shoulder dinner jackets; their wives dress glitteringly, like oil-rigs in the night.

Tired women sunbathe at Doctor's Cave, killing time because "the libe, it's better dead". Wall-to-wall sunbathing, basted by the culinary juices of Ambre Soleil. But there's a superb retreat at Half Moon Club, owned by that same Heinz Simonitsch, where a cottage in the grounds is a moon-shot away from Throgmorton Street.

We are visitors in Negril, yet the trick of the place is that you are not made to feel so; you arrive and are manipulated into believing that you belong.

I am not saying that Negril is idyllic for those with advanced ideas on plumbing; what I do suggest is that it is here that you may come to grips with your host country. The tendency in the fleshpots of the globe is to merely acquiesce; the Negril are more demanding. Negril has young people (and not so young) who are exploring, experimenting, asking questions. Some smoke Ganja (illegally), some drink mushroom tea, a few become Rastafarians, get pregnant, run out of money. But all become better acquainted with Jamaica, which descends from a slave culture whose wounds went deep.

They have no good cause to like us; yet I believe they do. They have a way of looking at us with shy, indulgent smiles which come from a long way behind the eyes — a way of looking at us as if we, not they, are the children. Sometimes I think they are right.

Air Florida flies from Gatwick to Montego Bay; their office is 3 Woodstock Street, London W1R 1HD. Tel: 01-491 7475. Excursion fares (maximum stay of 21 days) cost from £30.50 return. Further details and bookings concerning hotels mentioned in this article through: Windotel, 149 Sloane Street, London SW1X 9EZ. Tel: 01-730 7144.

Still heading west along this north coast is Ocho Rios and two of my favourite hotels in the world, Plantation Inn and Jamaica Inn, where the scent of hibiscus and bougainvillea is in the air, and ackee and saltfish, pumpkin soup and cho-cho are on the menu. Here you can climb Dunn's River Falls, spectacular waterfalls that cascade on to the sand; and here, as the sun bloodies the horizon, you can drink rum punch, listen to the tree-trots and thank whoever is in charge of these things that the warning lights have dimmed. We can return to

Port Antonio, my first Jamaican love. First love and other sorrows. We swim in bottomless Blue Lagoon and rafted along the Rio Grande. Errol Flynn started the rafting craze, and he built a house called Castle Comfort high on a hill where his widow, Patrice, still lives. At Christ Church the tower clock read 4.30 all day long and Mrs Petersen, black and handsome and old even then, sat in her usual place, last pew on the right. John Crow, the carrion vulture, wheeled above the forest, carried on the Undertaker's Wind: "dippies", ghosts who live in cotton trees, came out at night; the local "obeah-man" still worked in magic potions. People walked with the swinging boneless grace of panthers. Nothing much has changed in Port Antonio.

At Port Maria, in a house named Firefly Hill, Noel Coward perched in his mountain eyrie, bandaged in cigarette smoke, thinking beautiful thoughts. "Dear Boy", he said to me once, "pour me a ginger ale — simply ridded with brandy."

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pumpkin soup and cho-cho are on the menu. Here you can climb Dunn's River Falls, spectacular waterfalls that cascade on to the sand; and here, as the sun bloodies the horizon, you can drink rum punch, listen to the tree-trots and thank whoever is in charge of these things that the warning lights have dimmed. We can return to



Lazing away in Kingston town

Jersey makes your money go round

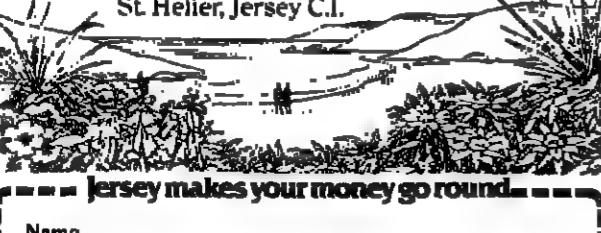
A holiday in Jersey has always been really good value, but this year it's even better. Most of Jersey's hotels, guesthouses and holiday companies are holding prices at 1981 levels or better.

You find the value in cheerful family-run guest-houses and hotels alike. In the range of inclusive holidays at your travel agents. And every time you step outside into the sun.

You'll find low-cost drinks and VAT-free shopping. Inexpensive car hire and cheaper petrol. And remember, Jersey makes no charge for its wealth of scenic beauty, or its dazzling beaches. At night, the value goes on whether you dance, disco or merely dine.

Enchanted Jersey. So warm in its welcome.

Ask your travel agent or send for free literature to: Dept. 112, Jersey Tourism, Weighbridge, St. Helier, Jersey C.I.



Name _____
Address _____

POSTNOMES

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS

TELEGRAMS

TELETYPE

TELEFAX

Shoparound with Beryl Downing

THE TIMES Guide to getting things mended

Antiquities

London: (R) Anna Plowden Ltd, 39 High Street, Kingston upon Thames (01-549 6471). A team of 20 specializing in decorative arts and antiques — buried bronzes, uncrushing of metals, organ restoration. Also gilding, ceramics, terracotta, tortoiseshell, marble. "Anything nobody else will do" from fine pictures and porcelain. Minimum charge £25. Work for museums and collectors all over the world. Will collect in Central London or visit anywhere.

Bookbinders



Berkshire: Rosalind Campbell, Buffers Bindery, Ascot Station (Ascot 2824). Antique and modern restoration from £20, full leather bindings from £60; gold tooling, paper conservation can be arranged. Work done or Oxford college at Chaworth. Visitors books, photographs, albums made and restored. Will visit clients in London.

The Eddington Bindery Ltd, Hungerford (0488 275). Any restoration and conservation of all books from fifteenth-century paper, washing and foxing, special game books made from £180, morocco bound racing scrap books in personal racing silks from £90. Work done for museums and libraries. Can collect in London.

Devon: Sydney Delow, Kerswell, Liverton, Newton Abbot (Bickington 611). Repairs, restitches, relines, replaces covers or renewals. From £20 or minor repairs in a leather-bound book. New gold tooling done, not old. Graduates' theses and magazines bound. Work done for Brixham museum. Visits within 50-mile radius.

Where do you go to get your handbag re-styled or your deckchairs re-covered? Who will get rid of your bookworm (the one that eats, not borrows), or re-line your cigar box? Who can mend your elephant? Shoparound asked readers for their recommendations — for there is no better guide than a satisfied customer — and this directory is the result.

Thank you all for your tremendous response. The list I have chosen cannot possibly be comprehensive — that would

take several pages — but I have tried to make it wide-ranging and widespread.

There were so many recommendations of china and furniture restorers and of experts in cane and rush seating that these will be included in part two of the guide, next week. Also included will be restorers of textiles and lace, Oriental carpets, pearls and beads — even baths and violins.

Readers' recommendations are marked (R), the rest have been sent in by the restorers themselves, but in both cases I have contacted everyone personally.

London: Caroline Bendix, Elm Park Road, SW3 (01-352 0429). Restoration of books and paper, gold tooling, new bindings, presentation copies. Visitors books rebound from £35. Visits in and around London. Telephone first for appointment.

(R) Bookends Bindery, 18 Elstaston Road, N7 (01-607 0511). All restoration and repair of antiquarian and modern books. Repair of paper. Gold tooling. Work done for colleges and museums. Full leather bindings within £55.

Camberwell School of Arts and Crafts, Peckham Road, SE5 (01-703 0967). All forms of paper conservation, restoration of photographs, family documents, parish archives, maps, charts. The college runs several courses, works with museums and can arrange for private work to be done.

Sussex: (R) Mainly Clocks, 39 Tarrant Street, Arundel (Arundel 882871). Robert Beresford specializes in clocks, watches and musical boxes but will turn his hand to almost anything mechanical, like converting Victorian coin or toys to take 2s pieces. Mends "anything not completely derelict because I don't like to be beaten". Work done for Arundel Museum. Will travel within 70 to 80 miles.

Clocks

Dorset: Clock House, North Lodge Road, Parkstone (Parkstone 743505). Long case clocks and antique clocks from sixteenth century on — repaired and overhauled. Will travel within 50 miles.

Scotland: (R) Jocelyn Antiques, 161 West George Street, Glasgow (041 248 3024). Clock movements and cases restoration, including pocket watches, mantle and wall clocks, barometers. No

electric or battery clocks. Also furniture restoration, French polishing, upholstery and cane repairs. Will collect in Glasgow area.

Somerset: (R) Terence Morris, 11 Farwell Street, Bruton (074 381 3448). All old clocks, from watches — long case, bracket and carriage. From £45 to £120, approximately. Also furniture restoration, repairs to veneer, brass inlay, French polishing and oil polishing. Will collect within 25 miles.

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Giltwood and Lacquer



London: Belinda Balfour, 27 Walgrave Road, SW3 (01-373 7358). Lacquer and gilding on furniture, not frames, particularly 18th century gesso and antique japanned furniture. Some travelling. Will restore large pieces in situ.

(R) Ferenc Toth, S Cherni Lai and Francois Lavender, 598a King's Road (01-731 2063). Restoring of all antique mirrors in any condition, furniture and carvings. Regilding, re-carving, lacquer, special crackle finish. Marbling, tortoiseshell, rag rolling; lacquering in original japanning technique and in own special finishes. Framing with own mouldings. Will collect and deliver anywhere.

(R) The English Lacquer Shop, 81 Marchmont Street, WC1 (01-380 143). All types of lacquer restoration undertaken, from filling in chips to "major surgery" — stripping completely and re-lacquering to original design. Small items to be brought in. Restorer will visit from Kent workshop to give estimates on larger pieces. Nothing too small or too big.

Surrey: St Barbe Restoration & Antiques Centre, Old Bakewell Yard, Petworth Road, Haslemere (Haslemere 52428). Water gilding, oil gilding, lacquer and paper mache restoration. Cabinet making and mother-of-pearl boxes, china, lace, pictures. Delivery within 60 miles. Can travel anywhere.

Clocks

Hertfordshire: Iron Things, 2 Hatfield Road, St Albans (St Albans 68432). Will undertake almost anything made out of metal — "if it needs repairing we'll try to do it." Includes fire baskets, dog irons, wrought iron gates to re-bolting, coal scuttles and re-tinning saucepans. Charges are about £8 per hour. No travelling.

Kent: (R) Kelvin Pocklock, 4 St Martin's Avenue Canterbury (0227 62278). Works in any metal but pewter. Copies of brass handles and ornaments, ironwork restoration, hinges on harpsichords — "no job is too small". Reliable and reasonably priced, says one of his clients. Works mainly in the Kent area.

Glass

London: Annie Ross, Space Studios, Lower Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 (01-237 4430 or 381 3448). Stained glass repair and restoration including re-leading and hand painting in old Victorian techniques. Arrangements made for etching and sandblasting. Everything from front door panels to pub windows. Costs around £25 per sq. ft. Will travel.

Living Art, 35 Kenway Road, SW5 (01-370 2766). Chips on glass removed, antique glass repaired, silver collars put on decanters. Also china and clock mending, gilding and lacquering, bookbinding. Tuesday to Friday, 1.30pm to 6.30pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm.

Guns

London: (R) Parrett Close, 8 Parrett Close, Langport (0588 250649). Servicing and repair of quality guns by a Purdey-trained gunsmith. Work on quality cases of brass brackets: but will repair church bell ropes from about £16 per foot.

Handbags and Luggage

London: (R) Handbag Service Co, 16 Beauchamp Place, SW1 (01-589 4975). All leather handbag repairs from £2. Crocodile a speciality. Pedi-point made into handbags. Some small luggage repair — zips, handles. Mail order service elsewhere.

Mayfair Trunk, 3 Shepherd Street, W1 (01-499 2620). Repairs to all types of luggage — handles, frames, zips, tears in leather, locks on briefcases. From £5. No postage. Pewter repairs. Will travel.

Ivory and inlay

Dorset: (R) N. Blades, The Workshop, 21 Princess Street, Dorchester (0305 58653). Restoration of ivory, Victorian scissor handles, pearl restraining, stone re-setting. Metalwork on violin bows, re-velvet jewel boxes, re-silk photograph frames, re-load candleabra, re-back hand mirrors. Ivory inlays on tea and coffee sets. Pewter repairs. Will travel.

Metalwork

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Plasterwork

Avon: Hayles & Howe, 37 Picton Street, Montpelier, Bristol (022 46673). All types of ornamental plaster ceiling roses from £15, cornices, niches, fire surrounds. New and restoration work. Will travel anywhere.

Rocking Horses

Oxfordshire: Sarah Bramley, 180 Reading Road, Banbury-on-Thames (049 12 77001). Repair and restoration of rocking horses in any state of delapidation, using real horsehair and leather and painting in Victorian style. Will travel in south east and south west.

Rocking Horses

Yorkshire: W. R. Outhwaite & Son, Town Foot, Hawes, North Yorks. (Hawes 487). Mostly rope makers (will make stain ropes with brass brackets): but will repair church bell ropes from about £16 per foot.

Stone

Northamptonshire: (R) Harrison Hill Ltd, Little Oakley Church, Nr Corby (0536 743876). Conservation, mainly of statues, including garden statues, and church monuments. Stone, marble, alabaster, terracotta, stucco. Work for stately homes. Minimum charge of £20. Distance no object.

Silver, gold pewter

Devon: Silver Services, Corner Lane, Combe Martin, North Devon (0271 88 3361). Antique silver and gold restoration. Re-line cigar boxes, re-velvet jewel boxes, re-silk photograph frames, re-load candleabra, re-back hand mirrors. Ivory inlays on tea and coffee sets. Pewter repairs. Will travel.

Timothy Blades

Hertfordshire: Timothy Blades, 54 High Street, Ross-on-Wye (0598 645600). Repairs to small antique jewelry, Victorian scissor handles, pearl restraining, stone re-setting. Metalwork on violin bows, re-velvet jewel boxes, re-silk photograph frames, re-load candleabra, re-back hand mirrors. Ivory inlays on tea and coffee sets. Pewter repairs. Will travel.

Umbrellas

London: (R) James Smith, 55 Oxford Street, WC1 (01-336 4731). English umbrellas only. New ribs from £2, ferrules from 80p, wood ends from £1. Handles from £2 plastic, £6 lacquered to £10 ivory. No visits, no postal service.

Tents

Surrey: (R) Atlas Display (Test Hire Ltd), Avon Path, Avondale Road, South Croydon (01-680 0367). Repair of scouting and other types of tents, removes mildew and will also re-canva deck chairs and repair awnings.

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Travel

London: (R) James Smith, 55 Oxford Street, WC1 (01-33

The Times Cook/Shona Crawford Poole

Light last fling

In the days when Lent was more rigorously observed than is generally the case now, eggs and butter were forbidden throughout the fast. Then Shrove Tuesday, with its pancakes and races, was a final fling, an occasion for working off high spirits as well as surplus stores.

There were pancakes about in medieval England and by the seventeenth century elaborate recipes were in circulation. Rebecca Price, wife of a country squire in the reign of Charles II, copied out this receipt given to her by a Mrs Whitehead:

"Take a pinte of creame and the yolks of ten eggs; and ye white of two; four spoonsfulls of sack; and 2 of rose water, a little nutmeg grated; beat all these together with a little flower very thine; the pan must first be rubbed with a little butter, and after dried with a cleane cloath; before you put in your stuff; make your pan very hot otherwise they will heave too light; and not bake so well; you may frye ym with butter, or without."

Half a pint of milk and one egg seems rather a comedown after such richness.

Pancake Makes Twelve

110 g (4 oz) plain white or wholemeal flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large egg, beaten
300 ml (1/2 pint) milk
1 tablespoon oil, preferably sunflower or peanut

Sift the flour and salt into a bowl and make a well in the centre. Add the egg and half the milk and mix from the centre, gradually drawing in the flour to make a smooth, thick batter. Add the remaining milk and oil and beat lightly until the batter is smooth again.

Beating the batter develops the gluten in the flour, making the mixture elastic and unwilling to run smoothly over the pan. Because wholemeal has less gluten than white flour, a batter made with it can be used immediately.

Batter made with white flour should be rested for about half an hour. Either type may be thinned by



55g (2oz) butter

6 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
12 freshly made pancakes
2 tablespoons icing sugar

Peel, core and quarter the apples and cut them into thick slices. Melt the butter in a frying pan and when it foams add the apples. Fry them gently until they are tender and just beginning to brown. Add the honey and lemon juice and cook for a moment longer.

Divide the apple mixture between the pancakes. Roll them up and dust the tops with icing sugar. Serve hot or warm, just as they are, or with plain yogurt or cream.

Lemon cheese pancakes

Serves four

225 g (8 oz) smooth fresh curd or cream cheese*
1 egg, separated
55 g (2 oz) sugar
3 drops vanilla essence
1 tablespoon finely grated lemon zest
8 freshly made pancakes

2 tablespoons icing sugar

adding more milk to make thinner pancakes.

To cook the pancakes use a small heavy pan about 15 cm (6 in) diameter. An omelette pan is best if you do not have a pancake pan. Heat the pan well and grease it lightly. Pour about two tablespoons of batter into the centre of the pan and quickly swirl the batter to the edges by tipping the pan. Cook the pancake until the underside is golden, then turn it and cook the other side.

Cook the rest of the batter in the same way and stack the pancakes on a covered plate over a pan of hot water to keep warm.

Serve them sprinkled with lemon juice and sugar and rolled, or fill them with another sweet or savoury stuffing.

Apple and honey pancakes

Serves six

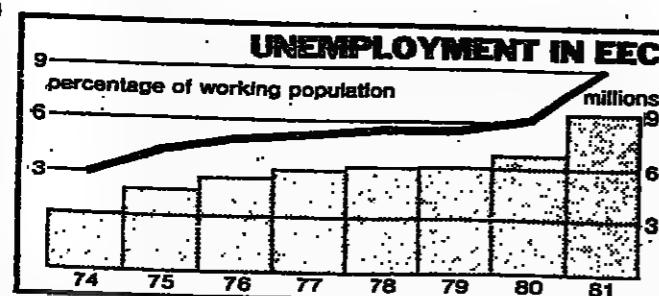
450g (1lb) crisp dessert apples, preferably coxes
450g (1lb) crisp dessert apples, preferably coxes

about 500 ml (2 pint) milk
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup self-raising flour
1/2 cup plain flour
1/2 cup oil

1/2 cup oil, or more if necessary

BUSINESS NEWS

Jobless record



January unemployment in the European Community climbed to a record 9.5 per cent, or 10.6 million workers, the seventh consecutive month that average unemployment in the EEC rose to a post-war high. A year earlier the jobless rate was 7.5 per cent or 8.5 million people.

Steel pricing optimism

Insufficient evidence will quash the remaining 38 cases of unfair pricing still outstanding in the United States against European steelmakers, the European Commission said yesterday. Its statement came after the United States International Trade Commission decided there was insufficient evidence of injury against United States steelmakers in 54 out of 92 cases. The commission said it would continue to watch over the remaining cases to ensure the GATT rules were strictly observed.

British Gas briefs staff

British Gas has put off announcing its planned 23 per cent increase in domestic gas charges until early next week, in order to have more time to brief staff at its 800 showrooms on the need for the higher tariffs, the corporation said yesterday. The delay follows complaints by consumers about the increases, scheduled to be introduced in two stages, a 12 per cent increase in April and 10 per cent in October.

Australian deal for De Beers

De Beers, the South African mining company which dominates the world diamond business, will market stones from the huge Argyle deposit in Western Australia if negotiations between the Central Selling Organisation and the partners in the Ashton Joint Venture, which owns Argyle, are successful.

Agreement would run from 1985, when production from the pipe AK-1 is expected to start. The CSO will sell all the gem stones and 75 per cent of the rest of the output.

OECD summit

Finance Ministers of the 24-member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) will meet in Paris on May 10 and 11.

MARKET SUMMARY

Flurry in TV shares

LONDON EXCHANGE
FT Index 562.3 up 0.1
FT Gilts 66.19 up 0.84
FT all-share 325.51 up 0.42
Bargains 16,891

Television shares dominated what little interest remained yesterday after a speech by Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister of Information Technology, at the City analyst's annual dinner on Thursday night.

Mr Baker indicated that the Government might give the go-ahead for the development of cable television by the commercial companies.

This produced a flurry of activity in shares like Electronic Rentals up 6s at 94p and Thorn EMI up 7s at 475p.

But with the rest of the market turnover remained disappointing and the FT Index closed 0.1 up 562.3, having opened 2.0 down at 10am.

In gilt activity was restricted to shorts where hopes that the "tap", Exchequer 13½% 1987, might be exhausted in early trade proved unfounded. Nevertheless, rises of up to ½% were reported by the close.

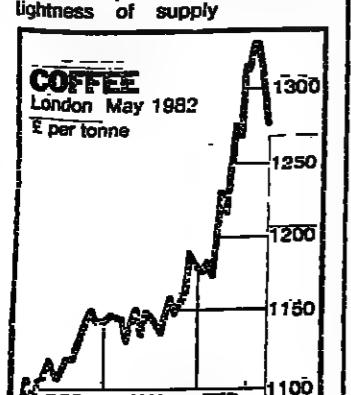
Brent Grieve Grant have upped their full year forecast for Marks & Spencer unchanged at 140s, following a better than expected second half performance. The figures due out next month are expected to show an increase in pre-tax profits from £180m to £215m.

British Home Stores has also been doing the rounds in the City, and in spite of a 30 per cent shortfall in profits in the first half, is expected to make up much of the leeway following a good Christmas. Analysts are now upgrading profits from £35m to £40m.

COMMODITIES

A weaker New York market and some commission house selling pushed coffee down to its lowest levels for the week. March closed at £1,363 a tonne, a decline of £26, while May was down by £32 to £1,277 a tonne. Trading was generally quiet but dealers reported an underlying tightness of supply.

COFFEE
London May 1982 £ per tonne



Tin prices also eased but late trading saw a burst of borrowing, similar to the previous day. About 1,500 tonnes of cash tin were borrowed for a day up to the maximum permitted premium of £120 a tonne. Cash tin ended the day 6s lower at £8,830 a tonne.

OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,280.92 up 23.02

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,713.31 up 29.55.

CURRENCIES

• The dollar was again easier as United States interest rates eased. Sterling reached \$1.86 at one stage.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING \$1.8540 up 20 points

Index 91.6 down 0.1

DM 4.3830

Fr.F 11,1400

Yen 433.50

DOLLAR Index 111.9 down 0.8

DM 2.3637 down 130 pts

GOLD \$367.50 down \$2.25

• The dollar was again easier in sympathy with lower Eurodollar rates. The Bank bought £433m of bills in response to a £450m shortage.

Domestic Rates:

Base rates 14%.

3-month interbank 14½-14½

Euro-Currency rates

3-month dollar 15½-15½

3-month DM 10½-10

3 months Fr.F. 15½-15½

£386m profit brings big rise in Lloyds Bank dividend

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Lloyds Bank opened the reporting season for the big clearers yesterday with a £95.7m rise in 1981 profits to a record £386m before tax. The figures were well up with best estimates for some time, but also pleased the City with the highest rise of one-third in the final dividend. This leaves the year's payment to shareholders up by a quarter to 30.54p and the shares rose 11p to 481p with other bank shares up in sympathy.

Outside the City, however, the results may raise eyebrows. Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman, gave a

warning a year ago when attacking the windfall profits tax that the future was not bright and bank profits had reached their cyclical peak.

Yesterday he emphasized that a strong world-wide performance was behind the bank's growth. Lloyds Bank International, the main overseas arm, boosted profits from £64.5m to £120.6m before tax as reported in November and Sir Jeremy said better control of costs, the fall in sterling and increased market share had also helped towards higher operating profits.

Sir Jeremy added that retained profits, which were needed for the bank to grow, were down because of the windfall profits tax — which cost Lloyds £58.6m leaving retentions down by £15m to £157m and from £47m to £24m on a current cost basis — but despite this the bank's free capital ratio was unchanged at over 15%.

Although the base rate was 3 per cent lower at 13.3 per cent in 1981, Lloyds benefited from higher lending volumes and a bigger spread between the rate paid to borrowers and depositors. Helped by the

inclusion of Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house, as a subsidiary for the last six months, the domestic contribution to operating profit rose from £171m to £207m. Sir Jeremy said that as the proportion of non-interest bearing accounts declined, the bank's profits were becoming less cyclical.

Lloyds had no plans to pay interest on current accounts because it did not think customers wanted it.

Bad debt provisions rose sharply for the group from £68m to £85.7m.

Mitchell Cotts chief leaves

By Philip Robinson

Mr John Wren, managing director of international trading conglomerate Mitchell Cotts, has suddenly left the group. His departure is thought to have followed a meeting this week with Mr Philip Dunkley, Cotts' chairman.

Mr Wren's office said last night that he was not available and would not be back to the office "for some considerable time".

Reports that he has been dismissed were vehemently denied by Mr Dunkley, who said: "It's not true he has been dismissed. I am not confirming that he is still here. If I am going to say about it I would have made an announcement."

It is understood that Mr Wren's departure followed discussions over the structure of the 14-member main board.

Cotts is expected to announce within a fortnight the appointment of Mr Thomas Kinsey, in a new role which could be as chief executive level. He has been a non-executive director of Cotts for two years and announced on Thursday that he was leaving as joint managing director of the Midland-based group Delta.

He declined to comment on suggestions that he is about to take a top job with Cotts. "You must ask the chairman of Cotts. I don't know what the position is and even if I did it would be improper of me as a non-executive director or of that company to comment. There is an announcement in two weeks. It would be quite improper of me to jump the gun before the company has made an announcement."

Mr Wren, who was unavailable for comment last night, had been managing director of Cotts for about four years. The latest accounts show his salary at around £45,000 a year and his shareholding in the company rose last year from 16,074 ordinary shares to 16,574.

Observers say that the traditional management advance in Cotts has been from managing director to deputy executive chairman through to the top job as chairman.



Sir Kenneth: "would-be South Seas rum runner"

The gospel according to Cork

By Peter Wainwright

Tall, stooping, spare, autocratic; commanding respect rather than affection; social when it suits, but by nature solitary, and assertive when it counts; industrious by fits and starts, Sir Kenneth Cork has turned company receivership into a form of life-saving, and Mr Paul Shewell will be performing a delicate operation to keep De Lorean ticking over.

Sir Kenneth, aged 69, seems a natural to be among the great and the good. He is a great churchgoer. Ennobled in 1978 as Lord Mayor of London, he told the Archbishop of Canterbury, one of his guests, that greed and inflation were contrary to Christ's teaching: "Therefore, your Grace, I think the

Church should not remain silent as it is at the moment."

Inflation, he said sternly

on another occasion, is

"trying to make out of the

community more than you

put in".

History does not record

what His Grace told the

New Lord Mayor in reply but it prompted Canon Eric James, Canon Missioner of St Albans, to write to The Times: "Last night on television we were shown the dishes the Lord Mayor of London set before the guests at his banquet: soup, baron of beef, breasts of pheasant, trifles, washed down with sherry, a couple of wines, port, brandy and liqueurs."

"His guests, from banking,

livery companies and so on,

did not strike me as pre-

sumed Pharaoh's lean kind

"Perhaps the Lord Mayor and his guests, would consider sending the price of their meal — "For what we have received — to the World Development Movement".

Sir Kenneth is however better known for saving money rather than spending it. After Berkhamsted public school and service with the Honourable Artillery Company during the war when he served with Eisenhower in North Africa, and as a Lieutenant-Colonel ran the whole of the British army's catering in Italy after hostilities ended, he represents much that is typical in the City.

EEC to investigate pricing of cars

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 19

A thorough overhaul of the way car import and export restrictions are applied between European Community countries has started after widespread pressure.

Mr Frans Andriessen, the commissioner responsible for competition inside the Community, is to start consultations with governments in the next few days with the aim of drawing up a draft regulation to control the trade.

A draft regulation has been in existence for some time. But the European office of consumer unions claims it is "a disaster" which is so complicated that it is useless.

"It would definitely not be in the consumers' interests if it were adopted," a spokesman said.

Giltis disappointed some brokers after the strong overnight performance of the United States bond market. Even so, long dated stocks made fresh gains of up to 75p, and the government broker was able to sell more of the short tap Exchequer 13½% per cent of 1987.

The equity market was rather more subdued.

After the fresh anxiety that greeted last week's United States money supply figures on Monday, the market quickly discounted the mid-week rise in prime lending rates.

Poles settle most of debt problems

By Our Banking Correspondent

Poland has paid nearly all the interest and capital on its loans overdue from 1981. Bankers are increasingly confident that the way will soon be clear for signing of the agreement to reschedule \$2,400, (£1.29m) of Polish loans, which was originally reached last year but delayed because of Poland's failure to pay the last of the \$500m interest and principle promised by the end of 1981.

A spokesman for Bank of America in San Francisco said yesterday: "We have now been substantially paid and are continuing to receive payments". In London Lloyds Bank said only

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High speed telecommunications challenge

Mercury prepares its quicksilver service

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

The British telecommunications Bill which made competition possible and separated the telecommunications part of the Post Office from posts by the formation of British Telecom, an independent company, was passed last July and came into effect in October.

Since the intentions of the Government were made public in July 1980 by Sir Keith Joseph

FAMILY MONEY

Oakeshott: 'terror of the investment trusts'

When Matthew Oakeshott started running the £300m Courtaulds Pension Fund in March last year, he came to it with a few definite ideas. He has been putting some of them into practice since, to the terror of the investment trust sector, which is the initial object of his attentions.

He says investment trust shareholders should have a better deal: they should be able to sell at prices which more nearly reflect the value of the underlying assets in their funds. Well, no-one would disagree with that. But how is it to be achieved?

Most trust managers would say it is to be done by friendly persuasion; but friendly persuasion is a tactic for the longer term, and as Mr Oakeshott (quoting Keynes) observes: "In the longer term, we shall all be dead. He wants quick results, and he has applied himself to this sector because he thinks there is a good chance of getting them.

He could, of course, realise his profits by buying up trusts in the market and incorporating the assets into his funds at market value. That is the course the coal board pension funds took a couple of years ago, when Mr Oakeshott was making his acquaintance with the sector as one of the Warburg team that was advising them.

But buying up trusts wholesale takes a fair amount



Matthew Oakeshott: the man at the head of the £300m Courtaulds Pension Fund

of cash, and Mr Oakeshott does not have that kind of ammunition. Investment income apart, little more is coming into the Courtaulds pension fund than is going out of it, and while he raised the £15m required to buy up Grange Trust last November (from the proceeds of the gifts which he inherited and sold), he could not keep it up without more heavy sales elsewhere.

So he has been picking trusts that are persuadable instead. He persuades them of the benefit of unitisation. Failing that, with a bit of

luck he might be able to

persuade someone else of the benefit of buying them at a discount, a price that gives him a handsome profit on his holdings. That is why he has been building up significant stakes in a small range of trusts with similar characteristics — not too big, no cross holdings, reasonable portfolio, and a handsome discount while he's picking up the shares. There is, for instance, Dundee and London, General Scottish, Murray Glendevon, and Scottish Ontario, all of which have assets of less than £25m.

Adrienne Gleeson

Ensuring a fair deal for house-holders

The confrontation between the building societies and Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, over house owners' choice of property insurance raises more than one question. But for the individual house owner the first must be: how satisfactory is my own insurance, and is a cheaper deal possible?

Complaints being studied by Mr Borrie indicate that at least with a few societies much less has been done to widen the insurance choice than Mr Borrie had hoped for following last October's change in model rules for building societies by the

Building Societies' Association (BSA).

The change left it open for individual societies not to insist on using agents for arranging insurance cover. The main result of the present agency system is that a society gets the commission on the insurance deal, although it is claimed that there are cost advantages arising from administrative simplicity particularly with block insurance arrangements between societies and insurers.

The agency issue may well turn out to be the crucial one between the societies and Mr Borrie, who might launch

his own formal investigation under the Competition Act and which a case could be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for judgment on whether the public interest is suffering.

Certainly complete freedom of choice could be bought at some cost. The societies argue with some force that their block policies and the overall administrative convenience, if scrapped, could mean an increase in borrowing rates of about 0.16 per cent. Insurance companies on their side could face more administrative costs.

What is clear — the agency issue apart — is that building

societies are not falling over themselves to point out to borrowers what options they already have.

Practice varies. Some societies offer three or more alternatives.

Aside from the main argument of the building societies is that the present system at least ensures that they and their members are properly covered. And owners who have a bad claims record, will not, if they insure through their building society, run the risk of not having their own renewed.

Derek Harris



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First name/s in full

Address

Signature/s

(Joint applicants must all sign and attach names and addresses separately)

T120/2

For doctors' benefit

When Doctor Jenny Dyson's husband gave up work after suffering a series of strokes and heart attacks she asked her pension fund The National Health Superannuation Scheme — if he would get a widower's pension should she predecease him. Doctor Dyson, like the other 20,000 married women doctors in the NHS scheme, makes the same pension contributions as her male colleagues, and has the same retirement age. But she has to fight for benefits which male doctors receive automatically. She says: "I have made pension contributions for nearly 20 years. If I was a man, a widow would automatically receive about half my pension. Because my husband was ill and could not work I was naturally anxious to secure the same sort of benefits for him."

But despite the fact that around a quarter of the doctors in the NHS scheme are women making equal contributions their husbands do not get automatic widower's benefits. Far from it. And although there are arrangements in the scheme for providing dependants benefits proving a need is, as Dr Dyson discovered, a harrowing business.

But the pension industry is struggling to solve the problems of job leavers and transferability with the producing of the Government's White Paper.

There is sympathy for men who change jobs and find

they will not get two thirds of final salary on retirement.

No one seems to care for the

millions of women that are

being discriminated against

least of all the massed ranks

of pin-striped gentlemen attending this week's National Association of Pension Funds conference.

The humiliation and diffi-

culty involved in proving dependency rate rule into the

wounds that only establish-

ing proper equality in pen-

sion schemes will last.

The Medical Women's

Federation has been cam-

paigned to get the terms of

the NHS pension scheme

but she and many other

women doctors are dis-

tracted that widower's pen-

sions are not paid in the

same way as widower's ben-

efits since they are paying as

much in pension contri-

butions as a man."

The humiliation and diffi-

culty involved in proving

dependency rate rule into the

wounds that only establish-

ing proper equality in pen-

sion schemes will last.

But where it can be

proved, he is not, the dis-

cretionary arrangements for

dependants smack of the

Victorian way.

But as one young reader of

The Times wrote to point out

this week, the 23rd Issue is

only available in units of £25.

Way beyond the reach of

most children who want to

learn to invest their money

properly.

MONEY TALK

Children's

guide

to saving

National savings has produced a guide for parents on the schemes available for children. "National Savings for the young" includes information on the tax implications of its range of products.

The National Savings Bank is ideal for children since interest is paid gross and paid over seven years on an account with a minimum deposit of £1. Children can buy National Savings Certificates too.

But as one young reader of The Times wrote to point out this week, the 23rd Issue is only available in units of £25. Way beyond the reach of most children who want to learn to invest their money properly.

Benefits check

This week the Government produced a White Paper outlining plans for dealing with the increasing mountain of debts we all have to wade through. Tolley's also published its new exhaustive guide "Social Security and State Benefits" a detailed explanatory handbook of the hundreds of welfare benefits which produce much of the ridiculous paperwork against which war is now being officially waged.

Tolley's excellent new book is at £7.95 hardly aimed at those on social security. But it will be of infinite use to social workers, charity organisations, divorce lawyers, personnel officers and others who have to grapple daily with the system on behalf of others.

Tolley's guide is written by Jim Matthewman and Nigel Lambert. Published by Tolley Publishing, 209 High Street, Croydon, Surrey. Price £7.95.

Low premium

A new low premium household contents insurance policy for the elderly has been launched by Lloyds broker Alexander Howden in conjunction with the Charity Age Concern England. The minimum sum insurable is £2,000 for a premium of £7. The maximum is £8,000 at a premium of £22 a year.

Jewellery and valuables are covered up to 10 per cent of the sum insured. The basis of the cover is "indemnity" — second hand values except for articles three-years-old or less.

Rates reduced

The Gateway is the latest building society to drop differential mortgage rates. The rate of 15 per cent will apply to all new, new borrowers immediately and to existing ones from the beginning of April this year.

For 5-6 years, 15%; 7 years, 13%; 8-9 years, 14%; 10 years, 14%; 11 years, 14%; 12 years, 13%; 13-14 years, 14%; 15-16 years, 14%; 17-18 years, 14%; 19-20 years, 14%; 21-22 years, 14%; 23-24 years, 14%; 25-26 years, 14%; 27-28 years, 14%; 29-30 years, 14%; 31-32 years, 14%; 33-34 years, 14%; 35-36 years, 14%; 37-38 years, 14%; 39-40 years, 14%; 41-42 years, 14%; 43-44 years, 14%; 45-46 years, 14%; 47-48 years, 14%; 49-50 years, 14%; 51-52 years, 14%; 53-54 years, 14%; 55-56 years, 14%; 57-58 years, 14%; 59-60 years, 14%; 61-62 years, 14%; 63-64 years, 14%; 65-66 years, 14%; 67-68 years, 14%; 69-70 years, 14%; 71-72 years, 14%; 73-74 years, 14%; 75-76 years, 14%; 77-78 years, 14%; 79-80 years, 14%; 81-82 years, 14%; 83-84 years, 14%; 85-86 years, 14%; 87-88 years, 14%; 89-90 years, 14%; 91-92 years, 14%; 93-94 years, 14%; 95-96 years, 14%; 97-98 years, 14%; 99-100 years, 14%; 101-102 years, 14%; 103-104 years, 14%; 105-106 years, 14%; 107-108 years, 14%; 109-110 years, 14%; 111-112 years, 14%; 113-114 years, 14%; 115-116 years, 14%; 117-118 years, 14%; 119-120 years, 14%; 121-122 years, 14%; 123-124 years, 14%; 125-126 years, 14%; 127-128 years, 14%; 129-130 years, 14%; 131-132 years, 14%; 133-134 years, 14%; 135-136 years, 14%; 137-138 years, 14%; 139-140 years, 14%; 141-142 years, 14%; 143-144 years, 14%; 145-146 years, 14%; 147-148 years, 14%; 149-150 years, 14%; 151-152 years, 14%; 153-154 years, 14%; 155-156 years, 14%; 157-158 years, 14%; 159-160 years, 14%; 161-162 years, 14%; 163-164 years, 14%; 165-166 years, 14%; 167-168 years, 14%; 169-170 years, 14%; 171-172 years, 14%; 173-174 years, 14%; 175-176 years, 14%;

Athletics

Coe to race for ICI in return for £50,000

By Norman Fox
Athletics Correspondent

Taking advantage of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's recent relaxation of rules on advertising, Sebastian Coe yesterday signed a contract with ICI fibres estimated to involve about £50,000. The British Amateur Athletic Board, who act as a trust fund for Coe, will receive 15 per cent.

Coe, who already advertises Harleks, has to allow the Board to administer the money and part of the fee will go to his agents. It was originally intended that the Board would announce the exact value of the contract, but Coe's representatives refused. However, ICI's four sponsors were involved in a £250,000 deal. The names of a golfer and a skier have not been announced but the Finnish motor racing driver, Keijo Rosberg, is known to be one.

Coe has agreed to run in an ICI red, black and yellow vest at all events this season apart from British matches, the European Championships and Commonwealth Games. The Board will obviously receive a substantial amount but yesterday's disagreement over the disclosure of the figure could indicate future difficulties. The whole question of whether agents are about to seize too much power appears on the horizon.

One of Coe's potential British rivals, Graham Williamson, who holds the United Kingdom indoor best in the 1,500 metres, has had to drop out of British team for today's difficult Phillips-sponsored international match against West Germany at RAF Cosford (1.0). He has a cold.

Tennis

Lendl struggles to keep unbeaten run

Palm Springs, California, Feb 18. Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, who has won tournaments in a row, continues his run of victories today in the grand prix tennis tournament here to reach the quarter-final round. Lendl, the top seed, who last lost to the American Vitas Gerulaitis in four rounds of the United States Open in September, was taken to three sets before beating Kim Warwick, of Australia, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5.

Lendl, who won the Masters tournament in New York in July, was pushed all the way in the third set and just managed to win it.

Christopher (Buster) Morrison, who reached the semi-final round of the United States indoor championships at Memphis last week, was put out by the French No 1, Yannick Noah, whom he had beaten in three sets at Memphis. Noah won 6-3, 6-4.

John Lloyd, also of Britain, who regained some of his old form to beat Eddie Dibbs, yesterday, was unable to maintain that form and lost his third

round match 5-2, 6-3 to Raul Ramirez, of Mexico.

OTHER RESULTS: V Amys (GB) beat S (Gibson) (GB) 7-6, 6-4, 6-1; Harold (GB) beat S (Gibson) (GB) 6-4, 6-1. — Agence France-Presse.

FOOTBALL: Women's football: 12 (Australia) 6-2, 6-3, 8 (Bolivia) (GB) beat M. L. Park (USA) 6-4, 6-3.

Rugby League

Back to 1966 and all that

By Keith Macklin

Only once in 13 matches — in 1966 at Bayonne — have France beaten Great Britain at under-24 level. My feeling is that their second victory will come at Toulouse, where since Great Britain won by only 19-16 at Headington in January.

France are desperate to win, if only to prevent Great Britain from making it 10 wins in a row, the achievement of John Whitley and Colin Sutton. Great Britain's coach and manager, Garry Moore, have carefully managed to find six players with under-24 qualifications who have also played for the seniors. With such experience and a home crowd, France will stay the pace better than at Headington, where they faltered after leading at half-time.

Great Britain have lost four players, Gill, Arkwright, Case and Gregory, through injury this week and although there are

competent replacements players like the Warrington winger Ford the Wigan half-back Tony Myler, and the Barrow scrum half Cairns, lack experience at this level.

The fascinating struggle continues at the top of the first division. Widnes, Leigh, and Hull are strong, all before them and promising to make it a fight to the death in April.

Widnes, with points in hand, do not have to travel to Barrow, the match has been postponed until March 3 because of Widnes' commitments to Great Britain, who have won 10 points in a row, entertain a revived Wigan, who promises to be a tough derby while Hull will find the visit to Bradford no cakewalk.

FRANCE: A. Tournier, P. Solal, G. Boulard, F. Dugay, D. Lemoine, S. Desvergne, R. Puch, G. Latorce, P. Maré, Y. Stora, Y. Martine, D. Verdon, J. L. Lemoine, J. P. Lemoine, D. Bousquet, S. Evans, G. Pott, D. Myer, A. Gregory, A. Tinson, I. Potter, D. Hock, M. Johnson, S. Hines, S. Hines.

Lacrosse

North are favourites for salver

By Peter Tatlow

The struggle between North, South and West resumes this morning at Lady Eleanor Holles School in Hampstead, where one of these three territories will emerge as the title-holder tomorrow.

North, the unbeaten holders with a good goal average, seem well placed to take the Hattersley Salver, but they have their two toughest matches yet to play against West and South.

West, with their close marking and impenetrable defence beat South 10-9, 10-8 and, as the surprise side of the season, could well cause another upset this morning.

Latest European snow reports

Depth (cm)	Conditions	Weather	Runs to (5 pm)	
			L	U
130	Good	Good	130	240
New snow on good base				
130	Good	Good	130	240
New snow on hard base				
70	Good	Good	70	220
New snow on firm base				
60	Good	Good	60	100
Good snow above 2000m				
25	Good	Good	25	80
Snow-free	Fair	Fair	50	160
Worn patches on lower slopes				
150	Good	Good	150	230
Good powder on slopes				
60	Good	Good	60	240
Good skinning on plate				
10	Fair	Fair	10	100
Snow on lower slopes				
35	Good	Good	35	120
Participating powder skiing				

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper slopes. The following report has been received from other sources:

NORWAY Depth (cm) State of Weather Conditions

100 Good Good

150 Good Good

200 Good Good

250 Good Good

300 Good Good

350 Good Good

400 Good Good

450 Good Good

500 Good Good

550 Good Good

600 Good Good

650 Good Good

700 Good Good

750 Good Good

800 Good Good

850 Good Good

900 Good Good

950 Good Good

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1050 Good Good

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3100 Good Good

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3950 Good Good

4000 Good Good

4050 Good Good

4100 Good Good

4150 Good Good

4200 Good Good

4250 Good Good

4300 Good Good

4350 Good Good

4400 Good Good

4450 Good Good

4500 Good Good

4550 Good Good

4600 Good Good

4650 Good Good

4700 Good Good

4750 Good Good

4800 Good Good

4850 Good Good

4900 Good Good

4950 Good Good

5000 Good Good

FOR ALL THE promises of
and the love of Christ are now
of God in us.—2 Corinthians

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THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 1982

Television and radio: Saturday and Sunday

Edited by Peter Daville

BBC 1

6.25 Open University Subjects include Richard Hoggart — A Measured Life, and Decoding Christmas. Nationwide. Ends at 6.55. 6.05 Swimming: Elementary diving (r); 9.30 Swap Shop: With Terry Scott, gymnast Suzanne Dando, Barry Took and After the Fire; 12.15 Grandstand: The line-up includes 1.25 Boxing; British light-weightweight Title: Clinton McDonald v Steve Evans; 1.35 Racing from Chepstow; 1.55 International Rugby Union: France versus England, from Parc des Princes; Paris; 2.40 Athletics (GB v West Germany); 2.45 Rugby Union: France v England; 3.30 Rugby Union: Ireland v Scotland; 3.40 Football news/athletics again.

4.00 International Rugby Union: (continued); 4.30 Athletics: Great Britain versus West Germany (continued); 4.40 Final scores.

5.10 The All New Pink Panther Show: three cartoons.

5.30 The Dukes of Hazard: The comedy series returns. Boss Hogg (Sorrell Booke) is positive that the Dukes have robbed him of his silver trophies.

6.35 Jim's Fix It: Welding from the comfort of a bed; a drive in the 007 Lotus car; a lesson in ventriloquism — all made possible by Mr. Saville.

7.10 Nanny: A film-star (Maria Lang) comes to stay at Chatsworth. She fears the father of her child will try to abduct him.

8.05 The Les Dawson Show: Paul Charles, aged 12, teaches the comedian to dance.

8.35 Babbo: Bobby Ewing (Patrick Duffy) is still trying to adopt Christopher.

9.25 News: with Jan Leeming.

9.40 Match of the Day: Action from First and Second Division games.

10.40 Parkinson: Roy Hudd and Christopher Timothy who play Flanagan and Allen in the new West End musical are in the studio with Chesney Allen himself.

11.40 Golden Seal: Final episode of the Australian thriller starring Ray Barrett. Ed Garry's mysterious death has put Alec and Johnny on the spot (r); 12.30 Weather.

Les Dawson: on BBC 1 at 8.05

BBC 2

6.25 Open University. The line-up begins with the MPR's surgery. Other subjects include the History of the Organ, Maths (ideas of space and dimension), Quantum Theory and Atomic Structure, Personality and Learning, and (at 2.45) Instrumentation. Open University transmission ends at 3.10.

7.15 The Golden Peacock (1951): with Avis Gardner as the doctor who becomes rich and hatches a plot to break up the marriage of the doctor she was in love with. Also starring Robert Mitchum, Mervyn Douglas, Leslie Watson, Jane Carter and Gordon Oliver.

4.20 Film: The Lady Pays Off* (1952) Drama with Linda Darnell as the young schoolteacher who piles up some gambling debts and becomes involved with a professional gambler (Stephen McNally) and his daughter (Gigi Perreau).

5.40 The Flight of the Condor: Wildlife in the Andes. First film in a series of three. Highly recommended (r).

6.35 Fit... as a Fiddle: Health and safety at work, with the accent on industrial diseases; 7.10 News, And sports round-up.

7.25 Did You See...? To be discussed: Hill Street Blues; Fame Is the Spur; 25 Years Ago — "Tonight". The panel: John Thaw, Jill Crigg and John Gielgud. Also, TV police drama survey.

8.05 La Bohème: the Covent Garden production (see Choice).

10.10 Film International: Peau d'âne (1978) Maurice Pialat's film on France, with English subtitles. It is about a young woman preparing to sit the baccalaureate examination (more commonly known as the bac). Starring Sabine Azéma and Philippe Merleaud. 12.30 News.

11.40 The Light of Experience: A former Moonie, Susan Swindell, explains how she was "de-programmed".

11.55 Film: The Frightened City* (1961) Thriller about the London underworld. Herbert Lom plays the bookie who plans to weld six gangsters into a powerful unit. Ends at 1.35 am.

9.00 Film: Lady of the House: (1978) TV movie, based on fact, about a former bordello keeper who became town mayor. Dyan Cannon plays Sally Stanford, the lady in question. Co-starring Armand Assante.

10.50 OTT: Comedy and music show. With Canadian comedians McLean and McLean. London news, followed by —

Johnny Carson's Tonight Show. With Peter Ustinov and Nell Carter.

12.30 Close: with Elisabeth Lutyens.

CHOICE

• **LA BOHÈME** (BBC 2, 8.05), filmed on the stage of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, earlier this week, was not rapturously reviewed by John Higgins in *The Times* earlier this month. There were, however, a couple of bouquets, and they were bestowed on the Mimì of Ileana Cotrubas ("tailor-made for her", wrote our critic) and on the Marcello of Thomas Allen. Since then, I believe, the Rodolfo of Neil Shicoff has relaxed vocally and Lamberto Gardelli has stopped cracking the whip over the orchestra a quite some time. I saw Gardelli's first *Bohème* at Covent Garden, and also the début at the Royal Opera House of the American soprano Marilyn Zeach. She sings the role of Musetta. • **JIM'S FIX IT** (BBC 1, 8.35) is not approved of in some quarters

because it brings rewards to those who ask for them more than to those who deserve them. I don't object to the programme. Better to watch dreams come true vicariously than not at all.

• **THE FATAL FLAW**, Chris Allen's play for Saturday Night Theatre, (Radio 4, 8.30 pm) has a flavour of that two-part BBC SO concert, live from Radio 3, 7.30 and 8.15, made up of Mozart's Symphony No 34 and Bruckner's Symphony No 5. And, obliquely musical, there's a second chance to hear Peter

Clayton's defence of Salieri whose reputation was blackened by Peter Shatner — albeit to memorable theatrical effect. They play *Amadeus*. (Radio 2, 8.30 pm).



Neil Shicoff, *Bohème* Cotrubas: BBC 2, 8.05

and is very bleakly directed by Christopher Vennin. It is about the destruction of personality (unsuccessful serious writer) and the reconstitution of its elements into a gaudy commercial machine (pulp fiction writer of phenomenal popularity). Martyn Reed plays the teacher who is reduced to a non-person and Margaret Robertson is the chilling amortier.

• **MUSICAL HIGHLIGHTS** on radio: a two-part BBC SO concert, live from Radio 3, 7.30 and 8.15, made up of Mozart's Symphony No 34 and Bruckner's Symphony No 5. And, obliquely musical, there's a second chance to hear Peter

Clayton's defence of Salieri whose reputation was blackened by Peter Shatner — albeit to memorable theatrical effect. They play *Amadeus*. (Radio 2, 8.30 pm).

John Thaw: BBC 2, 7.25

